FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

Daily Report

Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-96-050
Wednesday
13 March 1996

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FBIS-SOV-96-050 *13 March 1996*

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Russia: Yeltsin: Peace Will Be Attained in Chechnya in Mar

LD1303153396 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1519 GMT 13 Mar 96

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Georgiy Shelenkov and Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Translated Text] Sharm al-Shaykh, 13 Mar (Itar-Tass) -- Russian President Boris Yeltsin described the summit meeting on the Middle East peace process and the fight against international terrorism as "necessary and successful" in an interview with the ITAR-TASS correspondents.

"Necessary — that is the most exact word for the summit," the president repeated. As for the problem of terrorism with regard to Russia, Boris Yeltsin said: "There will be peace in Chechnya in March."

Russia: Security Council To Conclude Discussion of Chechnya

LD1203131696 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1158 GMT 12 Mar 96

[By Andrey Surzhanskiy]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, March 12 (Itar-Tass) — The next session of the Russian Security Council will be held this week. It will hear a final version of the programme of the settlement of the Chechen crisis, Press Secretary of the Russian President Sergey Medvedev told journalists today.

According to Medvedev, at the previous meeting of the Security Council, held on March 7, many observations concerning the Chechnya peace programme were put forward by Chechen leader Doku Zavgayev, Director of the Federal Security Service Mikhail Barsukov, Interior Minister Anatoliy Kulikov and Secretary of the Security Council Oleg Lobov. All these suggestions are now being examined. However, the overall conceptual framework of the programme will not be changed, Medvedev stressed.

In his opinion, the developments of the past several days may prompt some changes in the schedule of the reduction of the strength of federal troops in Chechnya. "There is no need for allowing the gangsters to impose political solutions on us," Medvedev stressed. According to Medvedev, it is necessary to prevent genocide, which may come as a result of a ill-considered withdrawal of federal troops from Chechnya.

Russia: Emil Pain Discusses Prospects for Peace in Chechnya

LD1203223796

[FBIS Summary] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1725 GMT on 12 March on its "Details" program carries a 10-minute recorded interview with Emil Pain, head of the working group on Chechnya, by Nikolay Svanidze on 12 March. The place is not given.

Pain speaks of the prospects for peace in Chechnya. He draws parallels between the Palestinian extremists' attempts to disrupt the peace process with Israel and the Chechen militants' recent actions.

Asked whether the Chechen militants had succeeded, Pain replies: "They wanted to wreck the peace plan, but they failed because it had already been agreed in principle on the 7th [of March] at the meeting of the Security Council. Only a few constructive details remained to be agreed."

Pain discusses Dudayev's aims in the recent attacks. "He had two aims. On the one hand he aimed to tie up as many of his supporters as possible, to stop them from entering into any talks behind his back. Therefore, he had to get blood on their hands. This was why this adventurist action with its hundreds of dead was undertaken. That was one part of the plan to wreck the peace.

The second part was like the one employed in Israel: to arouse mass indignation and the mass desire to halt any attempts at a peaceful solution of the conflict." He states that public opinion polls show that this second aim has failed.

Pain says that the way to peace is through compromise. Terrorists make up only a minority in any movement, he says. "The Chechen terrorists not only do not represent the whole Chechen people, they do not even represent the whole Dudayev camp because among the Dudayevites, among the political part of this movement, there are many people who condemn terrorism." He says that the terrorists fear a decline in their influence but it is up to the Chechen moderates to combat them.

Russia: Yavlinskiy Insists on No-Confidence Vote on Chechnya

LD1303114096 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1136 GMT 13 Mar 96

[By Ivan Novikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, March 13 (Itar-Tass) — The Yabloko faction does not withdraw its motion to parliamentarians on the no-confidence vote to

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the government over the Chechen crisis, reads the statement by Yabloko leader Grigoriy Yavlinskiy circulated among the State Duma deputies on Wednesday.

Less than two months ago, following the tragic events in the Dagestani village of Pervomayskoye, Yabloko began to collect signatures of Duma members to initiate a vote of no-confidence to the government.

However, only 58 out of 90 parlamentarians needed for the motion to be considered at the State Duma have supported it so far.

Russia: Zavgayev Foresees Signing Accords With Chechen Districts

LD1303115696 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1120 GMT 13 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Groznyy, 13 Mar (Itar-Tass) — Before the end of March, peace and accord agreements could be signed with residents of Achkhoy-Martan, Gudermes, and Nazhay-Yurt districts. This was stated today by the head of government of the Chechen republic during a meeting with leaders of the local media. He said that the demilitarized zone is expanding despite the recent events in Groznyy. At the same time Doku Zavgayev said that in the districts of Bamut and Vedeno mercenaries are arriving from near and far abroad, who "compromise the Chechen people by their actions".

Russia: Interior Troops Commander Interviewed on Chechnya

LD1303091196 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0500 GMT 13 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] For performing their duties successfully, five servicemen of the interior troops have been recommended by the command for the title "Hero of the Russian Federation". Our correspondent Anatoliy Fedorov asked the first deputy commander of interior troops, Lieutenant General Viktor Gafarov, to say a few words about the current situation in Groznyy and the Chechen republic in general.

[Begin recording] [Gafarov] It is necessary to coordinate the actions of the law-enforcement bodies to clear the town, neutralize the rebels, search for their stockpiles of arms and, above all, for people who were assisting them and, most importantly, to organize efficient work by the local law-enforcement bodies in the Chechen republic.

The joint group of troops serving there is under a single command and, naturally, there is cooperation in all respects.

As for the necessary measures that are adopted, I have no doubts in this regard.

It is unlikely they are ready for large-scale operations at present, but, naturally, they will continue terrorist acts, using the jackal's tactics: bite and run away. It seems Dudayev has no other choice. He is incapable of assessing the situation soberly and that affects other people who regard themselves as irreconcilable.

Most of the militiamen who have taken a decision to defend the interests of the Chechen constitutional system are fulfilling their duties properly but, naturally, there are people who have penetrated their ranks but are working for Dudayev — it is not a secret.

[Correspondent] Where is Maskhadov [chief of staff of Dudayev's armed forces] at present — is he wounded or not?

[Gafarov] In principle, no one has finally either confirmed or denied that, but nobody has seen him since the reports. There is information that he was wounded near Gudermes.

[Correspondent] What is the relationship between Raduyev's and Basayev's rebels at present?

[Gafarov] When bandit groups have different levels of armaments, naturally, they have showdowns among themselves trying to find out who and why, why some have more than others. That is natural in the bandit milieu.

[Correspondent] Is it true that Raduyev was a victim of blood feud or are there other scenarios?

[Gafarov] I am not a detective and cannot tell you exactly what happened. But I can tell you one thing: he was wounded and later died. [end recording]

Russia: Dudayev Envoy Believes Raduyev 'Is Alive'

LD1203211496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1945 GMT 12 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TALLINN, Mar 12 (Interfax) — Chechen rebel field commander Salman Raduyev, who led the hostage-taking raids on Kizlyar and Pervomayskoye in Dagestan, is alive, Imran Akhayev, separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev's envoy to Estonia, told Interfax Tuesday.

However, he does not believe that information about Raduyev "is 100 percent true," because there is no direct communication between Dudayev's headquarters and Tallinn, and everything is done through Dudayev's representative in the United States.

Akhayev would not name the man but said he had learned from him about Dudayev's verbal response to the letter of 64 members of a group of Chechnya supporters in the Estonian parliament, who had conveyed

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their condolences to the Chechen people on Raduyev's death.

Dudayev asked Akhayev to thank the Estonian deputies for support but said that Raduyev was alive.

Speaking about the January hostage-taking raid on the Dagestani town of Kizlyar and the village of Pervomayskoye led by Raduyev, Akhayev said there were 260 rebels, including 8 women, one of them a Belarusian citizen, in the Raduyev-led unit.

According to Akhayev, 1,500 Russian soldiers and officers died. The rebels destroyed 19 Russian armored vehicles and nine helicopters during the Dagestani operation, he said.

He said the Raduyev unit lost seven members in Kizlyar, 10 in Pervomayskoye and 49 more died when breaking through the blockade, most of them falling victim to mines.

Earlier Tuesday, an official at Dudayev's headquarters also refuted reports of Raduyev's death.

Russia: Summary of ITAR-TASS Reports on Maskhadov Wounding

LD1203152796

[FBIS Report] Moscow ITAR-TASS in English reports monitored on 12 March cite officials and others on the veracity of reports on the wounding of Aslan Maskhadov, chief of staff of Chechen leader Ruslan Dudayev.

In a Moscow-datelined report at 0915 GMT, ITAR-TASS says that Aleksandr Petrovskiy, chief of the Russian Interior Ministry's Provisional Board in Chechnya, "confirmed" reports on the wounding. He is quoted as saying: "This information is not based on mere rumours, but is confirmed by operational reports which are now being checked." In common with earlier filed reports, Petrovskiy links the assault of Maskhadov to factional infighting.

The report cites also an unidentified official of the Russian Federal Security Service (FSB). He reportedly says that the FSB "has no grounds to mistrust the source which reported to Chechen Secret Services that Chief of Dudayev's Staff Aslan Maskhadov was gravely wounded" and that "this source has never let us down".

In a Groznyy-datelined report at 0916 GMT, ITAR-TASS cites an unnamed "Chechen resident of the southern mountain region of Vedeno" who claimed to witness the attack. This person told TASS "Maskhadov had his base of the skull broken with a rifle butt during an attack last Thursday near the settlement of Gerzel-aul, 55 kilometres east of Groznyy." In this attack, which the witness stated was carried out by Raduyev's men, one of Maskhadov's bodyguards was killed and another wounded. The witness further is cited as saying that Maskhadov received another wound on 9 March when his men tried to take him to neighboring Dagestan across the Aksai river. Maskhadov reportedly received a lung wound after hitting a mine in shallow waters.

ITAR-TASS adds that no independent confirmation of the eyewitness claims are available.

A further Groznyy-datelined report at 1502 GMT cites an unnamed Chechen resident as saying that Maskhadov "is undergoing intensive therapy in a village near the town of Gudermes." The report continues: "According to the source, the wounded Chechen commander was receiving intravenous injections in a heavily guarded private house which had been converted into an impromptu field hospital."

The report concludes by saying that demonstrators rejected such claims at a rally in the town of Shali on Monday. However, "none of them had seen Maskhadov since reports that he had been wounded appeared."

Reports monitored at London Bureau thus far contain no additional information on the extent of Maskhadov's injuries.

Russia: Duma Refuses To Consider Amnesty for Dudayev

LD1303091496 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0853 GMT 13 Feb 96

[By Ivan Novikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW March 13 (Itar-Tass) — The Russian State Duma voted down on Wednesday a proposal to consider an amnesty to wanted Chechen separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev.

Only 21 lawmakers backed the proposal submitted by Konstantin Borovoy, who had several times met Dudayev in southern Chechen mountains.

Borovoy, the leader of the Party of Economic Freedom, insisted that "the negotiating process in Chechnya cannot be successful without the participation of Dudayev".

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Russia: Groznyy: Defense Ministry Paper Reviews Developments

MM1203155696 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 Mar 96 p 1

[Report by Oleg Georgiyev: "Dudayev's Supporters Attack Groznyy and Act Like Out and Out Bandits"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Around the time of the holiday [Women's Day, 8 March], Groznyy was the scene of the bloodiest clashes. Just before, 4 March, the gunmen carried out over 20 armed attacks on checkpoints and the federal forces' billets in the city. It is now quite clear that these were so-called "reconnaissance" strikes. Dudayev's men carried out the main attack during the night of 5-6 March. [passage omitted]

Comment is superfluous, so to speak. And indeed the very situation in Groznyy is like a carbon copy of the events in Budennovsk, Kizlyar, Gudermes.... And once again there is a multitude of questions to which there are no clear answers. For example: How did the gunmen manage to infiltrate the city unnoticed again, and indeed in such large numbers? Or: How were the weapons and ammunition which enabled the combat to go on uninterrupted for several days smuggled in? It can scarcely be explained "competently" why the "maneuvers" carried out by such large illegal formations remained unnoticed until it was too late.

Incidentally, something about the number of gunmen who attacked the city. According to preliminary data, the city was attacked by at least 1,000 of Dudayev's men. On 7 March Russian President Boris Yeltsin had different information at his disposal: about 700 gunmen were fighting against the federal forces in Groznyy. On that day, the general picture in the city could be assessed more concretely. Dudayev's men managed to take 84 Russian construction workers hostage, and the law enforcement organs also suffered considerable losses. Furthermore, the gunmen put out of commission a number of economic plants, including three water supply installations. On the same day, the fuel oil pipeline at Heat and Electric Power Station 3 was blown up, and a fire broke out which the shooting prevented from being put out. Nevertheless, the republic government stayed where it was and carried on working. As Chechen Vice Premier Abdula Bugayev said to an ITAR-TASS correspondent, the government keeps receiving calls from civilians who are prepared to come to the authorities' assistance and, weapon in hand, defend Groznyy against the gunmen. The first clash between the gunmen and the Chechen militiamen has already taken place. There are dead and wounded on both sides.

On the same day, to the accompaniment of the fighting in Groznyy, the Russian Federation Security Council sitting, which discussed the plan for settling the Chechen conflict, was going on in Moscow. Judging by Boris Yeltsin's statements, this plan was determined, though not without difficulty, and its details will be made public later. But it can be said even now that it presupposes not only political, but also military means of influencing the situation. At least, as far as can be judged, the criminals mixed up in the murders and terrorist acts should not count on being pardoned. [passage omitted]

It is still too early to talk about the scale of the latest destruction in the capital of the Chechen Republic. However, it is already clear now that it is considerable. But be that as it may, Dudayev has not managed to turn the situation in his favor in one furious burst. According to a number of experts, he intended to use the action in Groznyy to force the subunits of the federal forces to remove the blockade from Sernovodsk, where armed confrontation continues. Nor can it be ruled out that this was an attempt to deflect the military's attention away from the southern areas of Chechnya, where Dudayev's main weapons dumps and drugs depositories are located. This explanation is also possible, since fights over drugs and dollars are occurring increasingly frequently in Dudayev's camp. First of all there was the death of Raduyev, now a report has come in about Aslan Maskhadov, Dudayev's chief of staff, being seriously wounded in infighting. However, all these reports require further verification....

But the main conclusion to be drawn is no doubt a different one. Recent events have shown that Dudayev and his assistants do not care about their people at all. During the fighting in Groznyy they not only killed civilians and mercilessly destroyed houses and essential municipal facilities, but they marauded openly, carrying off convoy after convoy of loot.

What can you say, bandits are bandits. And any conversation with them should be short.

Russia: Groznyy: Federal Troops Kill Chechen Militants in Suburb

LD1203161096 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1324 GMT 12 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, March 12 (Interfax) — Federal troops killed as many as 60 Chechen militants and destroyed a store of ammunition in Chernorechye, a suburb of the capital Groznyy, on Monday, a spokesman for the North Caucasian military district told Interfax.

The group was routed in an operation to wipe out militants who attacked Groznyy last week, he said.

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According to official reports, 18 army servicemen were killed and 53 wounded, and about 40 are missing as a result of the clashes in Groznyy after March 6.

"We have every reason to say today that about 190 militants have been destroyed in the city, even though according to some sources over 300 militants were killed," the spokesman said. A total of 238 militant firing positions were suppressed, he added.

Meanwhile, a source in a Russian power ministry told Interfax in Groznyy that separatists are planning new acts of terrorism.

He said field commander Ruslan Gelayev volunteered to head the operation at a conference held in the mountains of Chechnya.

The source said Gelayev heads a gang of some 350 gunmen.

Russia: Chechen Rebels Said Planning Revenge Raid on Village

LD1303115996 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1143 GMT 13 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNY, Mar 13 (Interfax) — Chechen separatists plan to carry out an "act of revenge" in the Chechen village of Znamenskoye (about 100 kilometers north of Groznyy), a Russian military official told Interfax on Wednesday.

He said Znamenskoye "always has been and remains in opposition to Dudayev's forces." Previously it was the seat of the National Salvation Committee led by Umar Avturkhanov.

"As soon as the rebels get over the fighting in Groznyy, they will launch a punitive operation in Znamenskoye against the people who oppose Dudayev and their close relatives," he said.

Russia: Bamut: Kovalev Awaits Top Officials' Decision

LD1203213596 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1900 GMT 12 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian troops have today resumed the operation in the area of Bamut. The situation is made complex in Bamut because there are about (several hundreds?) of POWs and hostages. The commander of the local grouping has promised to shoot five hostages after each raid on Bamut. The commander said this to a group of deputies. State Duma Deputy Sergey Kovalev is convinced that without the decision of the state's top officials, the efforts of his peacekeeping group can yield no results.

[Begin Kovalev recording] We are generally helpless to do anything. And we are not authorized to do anything. We are really just so-called observers. Therefore, we have written to Chernomyrdin informing him about the situation and asking him to start talks about the release or exchange of prisoners-of-war and if possible to stop the raids in order to hold the talks. [end recording]

Today Sergey Kovalev addressed Chernomyrdin. However there has been no reply and the attacks on Bamut continue. The parliamentarian commission which must assist the release of the prisoners-of-war has a list of 1,300 for each side of the conflict. The chairman of the commission, Ramazan Abdulatipov told out radio station however that these figures are not final.

Russia: Bamut: 'Sporadic Shootings' by Chechen Rebels Reported

LD1303113896 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1119 GMT 13 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW March 13 (Itar-Tass) — Russian forces are not shelling or storming the main base of Chechen separatists in Bamut, 60 kilometres south-west of Groznyy, according to a federal command spokesman.

"Units of federal forces are not currently engaged in active combat operations in the area of Bamut", the spokesman told Tass on Wednesday adding, however, that sporadic shootings, provoked by the militants who occupy controlling heights to the south and east of the settlement, take place there.

The spokesman denied reports that hostages, reportedly seized during a recent assault on Groznyy, were held by the separatists in Bamut.

According to Russian human rights champion Sergey Kovalev, the militants said they would execute five of the estimated 90 hostages for each shelling of Bamut.

But the spokesman said the hostage reports "do not correspond to reality".

The federal command believes that Bamut, which is a former Soviet missile base, houses the main ammunition and weapons dumps of the militants.

After the separatist base was eliminated in the settlement of Novogroznenskiy, Bamut remained the last major stronghold of the militants.

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CIS: ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 13 Mar

LD1303063596 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0541 GMT 13 Mar 96

["Press Review" — ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, March 13 (Itar-Tass) — "Rossiyskaya Gazeta" carries an interview with chairman of the Federation Council Yegor Stroyev who commented on the forthcoming presidential elections in Russia, the progress of reforms and interaction between the levers of state power and economic problems. In another article, Chief of the Russian Taxation Service Vladimir Gusev dwelt on problems of taxation of the mass media.

"Izvestiya" celebrates its birthday on March 13. The first issue of the newspaper was published in Petrograd 79 nine years ago entitled "Izvestiya of the Petrograd Council of Deputy-Workers". "On the threshold of the 80th year of its existence the democratic newspaper "Izvestiya" does not renounce its past, but is pinning more hopes on tomorrow, hoping that a change which took place in Russia's fate is irreversible," the newspaper said in its editorial. In an article entitled "the president's administration begins a season of hunt for little men always to blame" the newspaper comments on the problem of late payouts of wages, saying that in order to comply with the present political situation when it is necessary to demonstrate to voters the determination in the search and punishment of those responsible, it is often wrong people who turn out to be guilty. The newspaper's journalists have analyzed a copy of a report by chief of the president's administration Nikolay Yegorov addressed to President Yeltsin entitled "On key issues of further implementation of reforms".

"Pravda" carries an economic forecast which says that in 1996 prices in Russia will go up by 73-84 per cent, while the wages of workers of the budgetary sector — by 25 per cent. As a result, the living standards of the population will go down by thirty per cent, "Pravda" said.

"Rossiyskiye Vesti" carries an interview with chief of a Group of economic problems of the Analytical Department under the President Mikhail Delyagin. Commenting on the direction in which the Russian economy is developing, Delyagin said that "Russia is not expecting an economic catastrophe, production decline will be inconsiderable and will not affect the state budget." Delyagin believes that a positive role will be played by foreign credits and investments and domestic investments as well.

"Pravda" comments on the problem of entrepreneurship reflected in the mirror of sociology. Liliya Babayeva, expert on social problems of the Institute of Sociology of the Russian Academy of Sciences, said that according to the data available, at present, there are around two million businessmen in Russia. Most of them are managers of major companies. "Minor business in Russia did not work out," Babayeva said. She outlined an image of an entrepreneur created in the minds of the Russian people and characterized main directions of entrepreneurial activity on the Russian market.

"Komsomolskaya Pravda"" carries an interview with celebrated ballet dancer, 86-year-old Galina Ulanova.

"Izvestiya" published a commentary by its political observer Otto Latsis. The Commentary entitled "It is good to be the Lord; all of us have come out of the 20th Congress, or whether it was the 10th Congress," the author wonders. Two great dates in the Russian history have coincided — the 40th anniversary of the 20th Congress of the CPSU [Communist Party of the Soviet Union] was marked at the end of February, while the 75th anniversary of the 10th Congress of the Russian Communist Party was marked early in March. It is two great Congresses that offered the Russian Communist Party an opportunity to smoothly come out of the hardest conflicts, but the chance was never used.

"Izvestiya" carries a commentary by Art Director of the Moscow-based "Lenkom" theater Mark Zakharov. The commentary entitled "Coming nearer to Paris" is devoted to the transformation of Moscow.

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Russia: President Signs Edict on Measures to Fulfill Dayton Accords

LD1203140996 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1254 GMT 12 Mar 96

[By Andrey Surzhanskiy]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, March 12 (Itar-Tass) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed a decree on measures connected with the implementation of the U.N. Security Council's resolution. The decree actually means a stage in the implementation of the Dayton accords on the Bosnia settlement.

Presidential press secretary Sergey Medvedev said this at a meeting with journalists on Tuesday. He said that the essence of the decree is stage-by-stage lifting of the embargo on arms deliveries imposed by the U.N. Security Council on the parties to the Yugoslav conflict.

In accordance with the presidential decree, the embargo should be lifted in three stages. The ban on military-technical cooperation between the Russian Federation and the states situated in the territory of former Yugoslavia, except for the supplies of arms and military equipment, is lifted from the day the decree is signed, the press secretary said.

This applies above all to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Slovenia, Croatia and the Union Republic of Yugoslavia.

The second stage is to be implemented from March 14. It presupposes the lifting of the embargo on the delivery of Russian arms and equipment, except for heavy arms, including tanks and large-bore cannons and shells.

The third stage is to be implemented after June 11. After that date the embargo can actually be lifted. Medvedev said, however, this will happen only after the United Nations Secretary-General delivers a report on the implementation of the Dayton accords, if the Security Council passes the appropriate decision.

Russia: Primakov: Russia Against NATO Approaching Its Borders

LD1303093296 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0828 GMT 13 Mar 96

[By Aleksandr Potyomkin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] WARSAW, March 13 (Itar-Tass) — "Russia does not want structures of the most powerful military bloc in the world approach Russian borders. Therefore, a decision will have to be found which would satisfy all the sides concerned," said Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov in an interview with Polish television broadcast late on Tuesday [12 March] in the run-up to Primakov's official visit to Poland.

Primakov noted that Russia was activating its foreign policy in the area of Eastern and Central Europe, saying that this was a priority direction of the Russian foreign policy. According to Primakov, he is holding purpose-oriented meetings with foreign ministers of all countries of the "Visehrad" group, which incorporates Poland, Hungary, Czech republic and Slovakia, since these countries are advancing towards NATO membership at a greater pace than other countries. We would like to announce Russia's stance on this problem and bring our arguments to the notice of the "Visehrad" Group so as to work out a decision which would take into account everyone's interests and concerns, Primakov said.

He pointed out that some new ideas "exist and will be put into motion and developed" in this field although Russia does not have new proposals on issues of European security developed to an extent when these proposals might be put to the table and seriously discussed. It is necessary to find areas in which the interests coincide, Primakov said. Russia does not intend to impose anything on anybody. Simultaneously, it would not be an easy thing to impose anything on us, Primakov said. Therefore, talks are necessary, he added.

He dismissed as nonsense speculations recently spread by the Polish media and some critics alleging that Russia was demanding some "ex-territorial corridor" from Belarus to Kaliningrad across Poland. "I have an impression that someone is either deliberately imagining things, or is not inclined to take things the way they are," Primakov said.

Russia: Medvedev: Russia Willing To Sponsor Syrian-Israeli Peace

LD1203125496 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 12 Mar 96

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] In Moscow today Sergey Medvedev, the Russian president's press secretary, spoke of the upcoming summit in Egypt.

[Unidentified correspondent] Among other issues mentioned at today's briefing by the president's press secretary was Boris Yeltsin's visit to Egypt tomorrow to attend the peacemakers' summit.

Since the meeting between heads of states is devoted to the struggle against international terrorism, Russia's position remains invariable. Russia condemns any extremist actions, no matter under what guise they are perpetrated, Sergey Medvedev emphasized.

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In particular, in connection with the recent wave of terrorist actions in Israel, Russia supports the efforts of the Israeli leadership and the Palestinian administration to surmount the consequences of these terrorist acts.

Apart from this, we are ready to join the Syrian-Israeli peace process, Sergey Medvedev said, since these talks are not proceeding smoothly at all. The president's press secretary said that the Chechen problem had not officially been put on the agenda of the talks which the heads of states are going to hold in Egypt. However, it is not ruled out that Boris Yeltsin will discuss this issue with the leaders of some countries taking part in the summit.

[Begin Medvedev recording] Naturally, the countries which proclaim their participation in a joint struggle against terrorism should exchange information on the methods and tactics used by terrorists. They should, of course, exchange their expertise and here I would not rule the support provided by antiterrorist subunits which fight terrorists. They should, of course, strengthen the mechanisms whereby legal assistance is provided. [end recording]

Russia: Beijing Seen 'Intimidating' Taiwan; U.S. Buildup Noted

MM1203193696 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Mar 96 p 7

[Report by Anatoliy Kurganov: "Like Cures Like. PRC States Launching Rockets, While the United States Sends Aircraft Carriers to Taiwan"; subhead and last two paragraphs are unattributed report]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its desire to demonstrate resolve and the ability to defend the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity, the PRC last Friday started some test launches of live missiles in direct proximity to Taiwan.

Mutual relations between Beijing and Taipei thus reached an apogee [as published]. The crux of the matter is as follows: Continental China considers the island of Taiwan to be part of PRC territory, that is, a province, and indeed a "rebellious" one, which in its opinion has traveled too far down the path "toward independence": President Li Teng-hui apparently "willfully" went on a private visit to the United States last summer, Taipei is persistently trying to get into the ranks of the United Nations, and so on. Having declared that he will run for president again in the 23 March election, Li is adhering to a "status quo" position and the principle of "neither war nor peace," trying to preserve at least the semblance of one China. But his rivals in the election fight are categorically demanding that the Chinese Republic of Taiwan be declared an independent state.

The military exercises and missile launches are strictly speaking a way of intimidating those preoccupied with the idea of "independence." However, not everyone has heeded Beijing's wishes. U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry called these actions reckless and risky, designed to intimidate and pressure. And right away Washington deemed it necessary to cure like with like, so to speak, by sending the aircraft carrier Independence to the Taiwan area.

Official Beijing has for its part recalled that it has never promised to give up using armed force to unite Taiwan with the mainland. We will not sit with our arms folded, PRC Foreign Minister Qian Qichen stated, and we will not remain indifferent if foreign powers invade Taiwan or if the Taipei authorities try to declare the island independent. The Taiwanese should be less worried about the exercises, and more worried about the attempts by certain forces on the island to use foreign powers to achieve "independence." Solving the Taiwan question using the U.S. 7th Fleet, as certain circles in the United States are demanding, would be ridiculous. Taiwan is not a "U.S. protectorate," Qian Qichen indicated. If other countries want a peaceful solution to the Taiwan problem, they should support Beijing's policy, which, according to the minister, is geared to the peaceful unification of the homeland on the basis of the principle "one country, two systems." [Kurganov ends]

Meanwhile...

Trying to exert a restraining influence on China, Washington has sent another squadron to the Taiwan area in addition to the Independence, made up of the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier Nimitz, the submarine Portsmouth, and six other ships. It is expected to reach the area of the island from the Persian Gulf by 20 March. After that, the combined U.S. naval group will have 140 combat airplanes and over 200 Tomahawk cruise missiles. According to experts, this, combined with Taiwan's F-16 fighters will exceed the fire power of the Chinese forces many times over.

The armed forces of Taiwan have been placed on combat alert in connection with the major military exercises involving live fire which started in the Chinese province of Fujian yesterday.

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Russia: Resolution on Lifting Arms Sanctions on Yugoslavia

LD1203185396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1748 GMT 12 Mar 96

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, March 12 (Interfax) - Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed a resolution on March 9 defining the procedure for Russia to lift sanctions against the republics of former Yugoslavia, the presidential press service told Interfax Tuesday.

In part, the resolution reads, "In accordance with resolution 1021 of the U.N. Security Council of November 22, 1995, all agents of Russia's military and technical cooperation with foreign countries should be guided in their activities by the fact that the validity of measures imposed by resolution 713 of the U.N. security Council of September 25, 1991 against states situated on the territory of former Yugoslavia will cease in the following order:

"a) The earlier ban on Russia's military and technical cooperation with the above states shall be lifted once this resolution comes into effect, except for the supplies of arms and military hardware (arms, equipment, ammunition, spare parts and other hardware);

"b) The embargo on arms sales to these states shall be lifted on March 14, 1996, except for heavy arms such as tanks, armored vehicles, artillery systems above 75-millimeter calibre, mortars above 81-millimeter calibre and anti-aircraft installations above 20-millimeter calibre, ammunition for them, mines, combat aircraft and helicopters;

"c) As agreed before, the embargo on arms sales to these states will be fully lifted on June 11, 1996, and after the U.N. secretary- general reports to the U.N. security Council on the implementation of Annex 1B to the comprehensive peace accord in Bosnia-Herzegovina of December 14, 1995, unless the U.N. security Council decides otherwise.

"This resolution shall come into effect once signed."

Russia: Prosecutor Suspends Investigation of U.S. Embassy Shelling

LD1303120596 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1026 GMT 13 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Mar 13 (Interfax) — The Moscow Prosecutor's Office has suspended an investigation into the shelling of the U.S. Embassy in Moscow on September 13, 1995, an office representative told Interfax.

The embassy came under grenade fire from unidentified persons on the afternoon of September 13. The building was damaged, but nobody was hurt.

The case was suspended because "the investigation has failed to find the culprit for the shelling," said the office representative. He said the Prosecutor's Office had done its best to solve the crime.

At the same time, the police and the Federal Security Service will continue the investigation. The case will be resumed if new facts are revealed.

Investigators think there are several possible reasons for the shelling. They do not exclude a political motive, because the shelling followed NATO bombing of Bosnian Serb positions.

Russia: Yeltsin Leaves Moscow for Antiterrorism Summit in Egypt

LD1303062696 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0244 GMT 13 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 13 Mar — Russian President Boris Yeltsin left for Egypt today to attend the international summit on the peace process in the Middle East and fight against international terrorism.

On arrival, the Russian head of state is expected to have several meetings prior to the summit, including a meeting with Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. A meeting with his U.S. counterpart Bill Clinton is also not ruled out.

It is assumed that Yeltsin will return to Moscow soon after midnight on Thursday 14 March.

Russia: Karasin States Russia's Aims at Antiterrorism Summit

LD1303065596 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0646 GMT 13 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, March 13 (Itar-Tass) — Russian president Boris Yeltsin left today for Egypt to take part in the International summit meeting devoted to the problems of Middle East peace settlement and struggle with terrorism.

In his speech at the forthcoming summit, which will open at Sharm al-Shaykh, Egypt, on March 13, Russian President Boris Yeltsin will "give clear characteristics of Russia's attitude to terrorism, no matter with what it is connected," Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Grigoriy Karasin told a briefing on Tuesday.

According to the Russian diplomat, Russia's strategic aims at the summit in Egypt "follow from its foreign policy priorities."

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Moscow hopes that the forum in Egypt in which, in particular, the presidents of Russia and the United States will take part, will give a new impetus to the Middle-East peace settlement and promote progress in all directions of the negotiations, Grigoriy Karasin stressed.

Russia attaches special importance to the fact that a majority of states of the region will be represented at the forum in Egypt.

The Russian side also intends to "accentuate insistently again the need to enhance the effectiveness of the existent international and legal mechanisms for combatting terrorism and work out new means for this," the representative of the Russian Foreign Ministry noted.

Realising the importance of coordination of efforts of the entire world community in rooting out this evil, Moscow is fully prepared for close and constructive interaction with its foreign partners in this field, the Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman pointed out.

Russia: Yeltsin Received by Mubarak; Expected To Meet With Clinton

LD1303094696 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0905 GMT 13 Mar 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Georgiy Shelenkov and Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Translated Text] Sharm al-Shaykh, 13 Mar — On arrival at Sharm al-Shaykh airport, Boris Yeltsin told journalists that his mood was "robust". The Russian head of state was met at the steps of the plane by Egypt's President Husni Mubarak, Prime Minister Kamal al-Janzuri and Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

Immediately on his arrival, a bilateral meeting was held in the airport building between B. Yeltsin and H. Mubarak, during which the Russian president stressed that "relations between Russia and Egypt need to be strengthened". "This can only be done through the will of the two presidents. The desire exists, the opportunity exists, the power exists and the presidents have each other's respect. So we must act," said B. Yeltsin.

He proposed that Husni Mubarak pay an official visit to Moscow. "I am inviting you, and the foreign ministers will agree on the dates," said B. Yeltsin.

The Russian president may have a meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton in the remaining hour before the summit opens. Like the Russian head of state, Clinton is representing a country co-chairing the Middle East peace process.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, the Russian Federation minister of foreign affairs Yevgeniy Primakov and the director of the Federal Security Service Mikhail Barsukov are also expected to take part in the meeting.

Russia: Yeltsin Calls For Coordinated Effort in Fighting Terrorism

LD1303105596 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1035 GMT 13 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Sharm al-Shaykh, 13 Mar — Russian President Boris Yel'sin has called on participants of the summit on peace process in the Near East and on combatting international terrorism to "coordinate their efforts" in the fight against "the criminal forces of Dudayev" in Chechnya.

Speaking today at the summit that has opened here, Yeltsin stated that terrorist attacks "resonate alarmingly not only throughout the Near East but also throughout the whole world." He said, "Unfortunately, this evil has not avoided Russia either. Bandit groups are trying to disrupt peaceful life in our country and some of the CIS states."

Yeltsin concluded: "Terrorism is the same everywhere. It must be countered on a universal scale. There must be no double standards. Our coordinated efforts are required."

Russia: Yeltsin Addresses Summit, Supports Peres, 'Arafat

LD1303110196 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1040 GMT 13 Mar 96

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Text] Sharm al-Shaykh, 13 Mar — Russian President Boris Yeltsin has voiced support for the policy of the Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres and the Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat.

"All rational forces in Israel and the authorities under Prime Minister Peres should know that they enjoy not only the moral, but also the practical support of the world community," said Boris Yeltsin, speaking today at the summit on the Middle East peace process and combating international terrorism that has opened here. "This should give Israel confidence that the continuation of the process of settling the conflict with the Arabs peacefully is the only path."

The Russian president went on to stress: "there needs to be maximum support for the efforts of the Palestinian leadership, its leader Yasir 'Arafat, and the stance he has taken of categorically rejecting and combating terrorism."

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Russia: Yeltsin Proposes Mideast Conference in Moscow

LD1303111696 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1038 GMT 13 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Sharm al-Shaykh, 13 Mar — Russian President Boris Yeltsin has proposed that a conference on the Middle East at the level of foreign ministers should be convened in Moscow.

Speaking at the summit on the Middle East peace process and combating international terrorism which opens today, Yeltsin said: "I think that the Syrian-Israeli aspect in the peace settlement is a key aspect at present. Syria has recently proposed that a Madrid-2 type conference be held. Let's not be in a hurry to draw any final conclusions on this proposal. The idea is not bad. It might be possible after a while and following preliminary preparations to convene a small 'Madrid' at the level of foreign ministers in a narrow composition in Moscow or some other place and to see what to do next."

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Political Issues

Russia: Yeltsin Decree Coordinates Foreign Ministry's Policy Activity

LD1203134996 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1251 GMT 12 Mar 96

[By Andrey Surzhanskiy]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, March 12 (Itar-Tass) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed on Tuesday a decree on the coordinating role of the Foreign Ministry in the entire foreign policy activity, press secretary of the Russian President, Sergey Medvedev told journalists at a meeting on Tuesday.

He said that the Foreign Ministry implemented these functions earlier, but it will now be "watching closer to ensure that all the agencies adhere to a unified stand" as regards the foreign policy.

Medvedev said some agencies at times came out with their own statements which were misleading as regards understanding of Russia's foreign policy.

At the same time the press secretary said that the decree does not play down the role of the Council on Foreign Policy at the President, the body working out strategic decisions.

Russia: Yeltsin Appoints Vitaliy Artyukhov Tax Service Chief

LD1203161496 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1435 GMT 12 Mar 96

[By Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 12 March (ITAR-TASS) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin issued a decree today appointing Vitaliy Artyukhov the chairman of the state taxation service of Russia with the rank of deputy prime minister.

The service's former head, Vladimir Gusev, has been released from his duties in connection with his transfer to other work, ITAR-TASS was told by an official representative of the Russian president's press service.

Russia: Yeltsin's Presidential Staff Changes Continue

MM1303120396 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 13 Mar 96 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Reorganization of Russian Federation President's Staff Continues"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The reorganization of the Russian Federation President's Staff, initiated by Boris Yeltsin's 29 January 1996 edict, is continuing. Last week the head of state confirmed provisions on five main administrations within his Staff. That applies to the main state legal and program and analysis administrations and the main administrations for questions of the state's domestic and foreign policy, questions of state service and cadres, and questions of constitutional guarantees of citizens' rights. The leaders of these administrations are deputy leaders of the Russian Federation President's Staff.

In accordance with the approved provision, the Russian Federation president's main administration for questions of the state's domestic and foreign policy is to take the necessary steps to create conditions for the head of state to determine the main avenues of domestic and foreign policy and, within the procedure stipulated by the Russian Federation Constitution, to take steps to preserve Russia's sovereignty, independence, and state integrity. The same administration ensures the Russian Federation president's collaboration with the chambers of the Federal Assembly, with the government, legal system, and organs of power of the Federation components. One important task of this administration is the analysis of national and regional policy and the preparation, for submission to the Russian Federation president, of proposals and recommendations for influencing the situation in the regions.

The main state legal administrations is concerned with legal backup for the Russian Federation president's activity in implementing his constitutional powers. It is here that the drafts of federal laws are prepared for the Russian Federation president to submit to the State Duma as a legislative initiative, that the preparation of draft edicts and directives on instructions from the Russian Federation president proceeds, and that conclusions are made regarding draft laws which have arrived for the head of state to examine. An important task of the state legal administration is participation in the elaboration of the concept of legal reform in the country.

The Russian Federation president's main program and analysis administration engages in program and analysis and information backup for the head of state's activity. This administration analyses the state of public opinion and the socioeconomic and political situation in the country and compiles a forecast for its development.

The main administration for questions of state service and cadres is designed to engage in backing up the Russian Federation president's activity to determine the main avenues of state cadres policy and the development of the state service.

The main functions of the Russian Federation president's main administration for questions of constitu-

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tional guarantees of citizens' rights consist in creating conditions for the head of state's implementation of his powers as guarantor of the citizen's rights and freedoms.

Russia: Medvedev Interviewed on Post, Political Issues

LD1203205996 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1610 GMT 12 Mar 96

[Studio interview with Sergey Medvedev, President Yeltsin's press secretary, by anchorman Dmitry Kiselev; from the "Prime Time" program — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Kiselev] Sergey Konstantinovich, you are the president's fifth — fourth, unless I'm mistaken — press secretary in five years. It seems that press secretaries' careers somehow don't work out. Why's that? Quarrelsome press secretaries, or changes in the president's character, or some third reason?

[Medvedev] Well, I would not say that this post is an unlucky one. It is more likely to do with the people, with the president himself, and with the press secretaries whom he selects. Many people including press secretaries and state officials take it badly when they get a notice of dismissal. But I believe that at issue here is not the post and not the mistakes of the president who chooses either devotees or assistants. What matters here is how you feel inside about this post, about any state post. The mistake is made by those who view it as a job for life. They take it very badly when the time comes for them to leave. That's natural.

[Kiselev] That's to say that you consider yourself a temporary figure? Did I understand you correctly?

[Medvedev] To some extent we are all temporary — that is what life is all about. Marx — eh, Marx the philosopher — said that humanity should part with its past merrily. That concerns each of us.

[Kiselev] Well, the previous press secretary [Vyacheslav Kostikov] made a merry parting with his. I won't comment on that now. Will you be writing memoirs?

[Medvedev] Well, I do not think of myself as a writer although if, to use the phrase, the situation suggests that I do this I probably will — perhaps in my retirement. I simply do not have the time to do this now.

[Kiselev] Well, that is a long time away yet, especially since you are having a rather hot time of it now. Tell us, is it easy for you to work in such conditions as, well, for instance, the situation last Thursday, when ITAR-TASS released a report at 1255 quoting Boris Yeltsin as saying that the city of Groznyy had already been cleared of Dudayevites although we had suffered losses — and meanwhile, at that very time, the fighting was growing in intensity and by nightfall Groznyy had almost been taken or had already been taken? So how do you feel in situations like that?

[Medvedev] I feel normal because it is my duty to feel normal. You may remember that that situation came straight after the meeting of the Security Council. Perhaps the misfortune of our journalists, the misfortune of our colleagues in the press, is that they demand operational information from the president. It is my deep conviction that the president should not have to give operational information — only in rare cases when there is no other source. In the case cited, such information should have been given by the department which is responsible for the situation. It should inform the public. The public expects this information — it expects it like manna from heaven because without it, it suffers.

[Kiselev] Well, in this connection, the question arises — how effectively is the president himself kept informed? I understand that he may not give information but he should possess it. And how in general does the president receive his information? Which sources does he have at his disposal?

[Medvedev] You know, the president is very well informed and is perfectly well aware that any person, any servant of the state can manipulate with the aid of information. They can manipulate decisions which, in this case, the president takes. Therefore he uses both official and unofficial sources of information. What do we mean by that? Foreign intelligence information, Federal Security Service information, information sent in by diplomats, reports, analytical memoranda, newspapers and magazines indeed — the president has all of this on his table.

[Kiselev] We once interviewed the first head of the apparatus of the president of Russia, Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin. He was Yuriy Petrov and what he said was: I am a filter for the president. Who is the filter for the president now — if such a person exists?

[Medvedev] The sad part is that any president gets a filter [as heard]. We remember Boldin served as such a filter for Gorbachev. He was considered a superfilter and he really did filter out information and we all know how Gorbachev ended up. That is one of the consequences. I believe that the president does not have a comprehensive filter like that now, and thank God for it.

[Kiselev] Sergey Konstantinovich, KURANTY has written that when documents are put on President Yeltsin's desk, important places are highlighted in green pencil. Is that so?

[Medvedev, curtly] Not true.

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[Kiselev] We have now received a lot of telephone calls to the studio here and we are changing the program's usual format. Let's give our viewers the chance to put their questions directly during the program and not at the end. Please go ahead.

[Gils, on phone] My name is Valeriy Gils. Sergey, is it true that our president's favorite newspaper is the MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS? Even though he says in public that it is a mouthpiece for communist forces?

[Medvedev] Well, let's say that that information is slightly out of date, although Boris Nikolayevich has frequently spoken about MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in public. He was only saying that he reads that newspaper regularly. The information is out of date — the president reads other newspapers too. I think that not everyone can boast that they have a favorite newspaper. In this case, I believe that Boris Nikolayevich takes a quite equal view of all newspapers, of all publications as sources of information.

[Kiselev] Alright, but there are favourite journalists. In the West, many political leaders including presidents address journalists directly by name during news conferences.

[Medvedev] Well, it is my observation that the president gives preference to women.

[Kiselev] President Yeltsin is entering the presidential lists for the second time in his life with a raised visor. There have already been important reshuffles — Kozyrev, Chubays, Filatov. Can it now be said that the team which has emerged is the one which Yeltsin will take with him into Judgement Day on 16 June?

[Medvedev] Yes, perhaps. Perhaps that can be said, perhaps that claim can be made. But that does not mean that this group is welded together, is joined by a cement of ages that cannot be ruined by the effect of time or political currents. That's obvious. How do we interpret, for instance, the president's decision today — I mean the reshuffle involving the dismissal of the head of the state tax service, Gusev, and the appointment of Artyukhov, the first deputy finance minister, as head of the state tax service and practically a deputy chairman of the government. How do we interpret that? A purging of the ranks? No, I would not interpret this personnel decision of the president in that way. Because ...

[Kiselev, interrupting] Well, let's move on. Yesterday's report by ITAR-TASS on the possible dismissal of Pavel Grachev which was then repeated by Russian Public TV — what was it? A test of public opinion? A journalist's mistake? An accidental leak? A deliberate leak? What was it?

[Medvedev] Well, I can say with complete certainty what it was. It was a commentary. It was a commentary by an ITAR-TASS agency correspondent and it was not entirely accurate. For example, the news that Oleg Lobov was taken away to the Central Clinical Hospital in an ambulance straight after the meeting of the Security Council does not correspond to reality, to put it mildly.

[Kiselev] Well, alright, if we return to this name — Pavel Grachev. At this morning's news conference the INTERFAX journalists literally tormented you ...

[Medvedev, interrupting] They tormented me, yes.

[Kiselev] ... about the possible replacement of Pavel Grachev by Oleg Lobov. And you diplomatically said — and I have it here with me [produces paper] — that you did not possess any documents confirming the head of state's intention to release Oleg Lobov from his post of Security Council secretary in connection with his illness and so on. So what do you mean when you say that you do not possess any documents? Do you mean that you do not possess any decisions? Does, for example, an oral opinion of the president constitute a document for you?

[Medvedev] No, a decision becomes valid after it has been signed by the president. Yes, the president can give a verbal instruction, and for me it is a presidential instruction.

[Kiselev] It is a document.

[Medvedev] Correct. But a decision on cadres cannot be taken this way.

[Kiselev] The president believes that democrats will naturally support him in the forthcoming elections. Does this imply that the president is prepared to heed their views, say, implement the conditions — and these are conditions, indeed — which Gaydar set to him?

[Medvedev] First of all, the president does not believe that democrats will naturally support him in the elections, this is one thing. Second, one needs to have a political clout to dictate conditions. In my view, neither Gaydar nor other leaders of democratic and reformist forces, regrettably, have this clout today, and they, too, understand this. Sometimes they are bluffing by dictating some conditions.

[Kiselev] The elections are 95 days off, if I have calculated correctly. In your view, what is now the pattern of forces in society? Or to be absolutely blunt and direct, what chances does your team have?

[Medvedev] Briefly speaking, the pattern is obvious, at least to myself. It involves two forces: Yeltsin and

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Zyuganov and all those who will unite around these two names. These are the two forces that will fight it out. They have started this big fight, in fact, already today. And now all the people who are following the situation, at least partly, and thinking about the results must make their choice. I can say in all frankness that if Zyuganov wins, we need not wait for the subsequent elections.

[Kiselev] Viktor Ilyushin, head of presidential advisers, has said that in terms of propaganda we have been losing so far. I hope that is a correct newspaper quote. At the same time, I cannot help thinking that as soon as the Kremlin steps up its propaganda it loses even more. Do you see any solution to this contradiction?

[Medvedev] There is no contradiction here. First, the newspaper slightly misquoted the first adviser's words in its headline. As to what you have said, that when we overindulge in singing praises we get the opposite result — unfortunately, this practice has been noticed, too, by the European Institute for Media Studies. I have read about it. For two years experts followed such post-Soviet countries as Russia, Belarus, Hungary, or Macedonia and drew the conclusion, which is paradoxical and I support it, that those who control television lose elections. It does not mean that television is weak and cannot control society, that it does not belong to the fourth estate. It just shows once again that it's an enormous force, but one should know how to use it. [passage omitted]

[Kiselev] Why, after all, have you preferred a career in the apparatus to the profession of journalist?

[Medvedev] It is not that I have chosen a career in the apparatus. I received an offer which, as the saying goes, I could not refuse.

[Kiselev] What are your duties as press secretary?

[Medvedev] The duties of a press secretary are the same as those of any press secretary of any president or manager. I must tell the public about the decisions taken by the president, clarify his actions, and of course, in this case journalists are my friends.

[Kiselev] Do you consider yourself an influential person? Does your influence extend only downwards or does it go upwards, too? Are you capable of influencing the president?

[Medvedev] Well, as well as being the press secretary, I am an aide to the president. It is my duty to help with the taking of this or that decision. I hope that I help.

[Kiselev] Yegor Gaydar recently said that there is no longer anyone in the president's entourage who can say no to him. Can you?

[Medvedev] It is very unpleasant to speak about unpleasant things to anyone, and it is twice as unpleasant to speak about unpleasant things to the president. I believe that I can. It has happened. But I can reply to Yegor Gaydar now that in some cases yes is a lot harder to say than no.

[Kiselev] Can you cite at least one example of when you said no?

[Medvedev] Well, that's an internal affair and I prefer not to.

[Kiselev] So how do you and the president meet? Are you in his office often?

[Medvedev] We meet practically every day. For anyone who does not know it, each aide has a direct telephone line to the president. By lifting the receiver we immediately have the opportunity to talk to each other. Apart from everything else, we have free access to the president's residence, to his reception room — anywhere we like. To the head of administration, too.

[Kiselev] You said that those who steer television usually lose. I do of course apologize for the expression, but do you intend to steer television on the eve of the election, and what is to be made of this scandal involving NTV when, you remember, they were ready to show the wall of the Kremlin instead of the Kremlin itself and said that they were being kept from entering, that the Kremlin was henceforth out of bounds to NTV and so on?

[Medvedev] Well, first of all I do not intend and will not steer television, if only because I have worked in television and I know what it is and what people think about it. That's the first thing. And the sceond thing is that you probably should not place the head of the press service, the press secretary in the situation of having to justify himself at every turn. Why do journalists of this or that company not turn out at every event involving the president? A strange question. And I will never try to justify myself.

[Medvedev] How do you view the work and style of the journalists on the other side of the — well, I would not say barricade — the barrier?

[Medvedev] Well, I'm in a special situation because I have been at both ends of the microphone, both putting the questions and answering them. And it is harder to answer the questions than to put them. Well, at least I now know all the tricks and you can talks about a certain kind of blackmail when colleagues come along and say they could get the answers to their questions from other aides but they would prefer to get them from me or they try to befriend you in order to get confidential

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information. Well, there are different ways of doing it and — and that's normal.

[Kiselev] Alright, but how is television airtime going to be divided up among the runners? There are already 50 of them if not more.

[Medvedev] This is not a matter for me to decide — the Central Electoral Commission deals with it. Incidentally, the chairman of the Central Electoral Commission visited the president today. It is possible that they discussed this issue, too.

[Kiselev] Have your views on the journalistic code of practice altered since you have changed your — well, maybe not speciality but way of life?

[Medvedev] I would say that they have somewhat, although not fundamentally. I have a very caring attitude to this.

[Kiselev] Do you make a distinction between yourself as a private human being and the press secretary in the Kremlin or, on the contrary, have you merged these two concepts? While passing along the Kremlin corridors, do you sometimes feel like pinching yourself and asking: What am I doing and where am I? Or maybe you feel quite in tune?

[Medvedev] No, I am living in the real world. It's my job which, on the whole, I like. Each job should be satisfying, and this is my case. As to making a distinction, I don't know, it is perhaps impossible. Unfortunately, I have set a very rigid framework for myself and I feel it. I suppress certain human qualities in me, as it were. This is, perhaps, wrong. But I need more work on myself.

[Kiselev] How long is your working day?

[Medvedev] That is a difficult question, I have not counted. Sometimes it is until late at night, on other days less, depending on the circumstances.

[Kiselev] What trips has the president planned for the near future?

[Medvedev] Well, tonight we are flying off to Egypt, and the purpose of this trip is well known. Very soon we will visit Kiev, then Norway, and after that, China.

[Kiselev] Thank you. Today Prime Time's guest was Sergey Konstantinovich Medvedev, press secretary of the president. Tomorrow Yuriy Afanasyev will be in our studio. Good bye.

Russia: Text of Yeltsin Edict on Citizens' Land Rights Published

MM1203161696 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 12 Mar 96 p 5

[Russian Presidential Edict No. 337 signed by President Yeltsin in the Kremlin, Moscow, on 7 March 1996, "On the Implementation of Citizens' Constitutional Rights to Land"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Since the beginning of 1991 as a result of the land reform around 40 million citizens of the Russian Federation have become owners of plots of land and 12 million rural inhabitants have become owner of land shares (lots). However, many questions of the legal regulation of land relations have not been resolved in law.

To ensure the protection of citizens' constitutional rights to land pending the adoption of the Russian Federation Land Code, I decree that:

1. Bequeathable plots of land obtained by citizens before 1 January 1991 and owned and used by them during their lifetime including land above the established limit and used by them for private subsidiary farming, collective horticulture, or housing or dacha construction are to be retained by citizens in full. It is forbidden to require citizens to redeem or lease the aforementioned plots of land.

The Russian Federation Government shall, within one month, submit to the Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma a draft federal law confirming citizens' title to the plots of land mentioned in point one, free of charge.

2. To strengthen the individual sector in the countryside local organs of self-government are to increase the maximum size of plots of land granted to citizens for personal subsidiary farming in the prescribed manner using land shares (lots).

The Russian Federation Government and the executive organs of the components of the Russian Federation shall:

adopt measures to ensure that the issue of land ownership certificates to members of agricultural organizations and other citizens who own land shares is completed in 1996;

ensure the conclusion in 1996 of contracts between the users of plots of land regardless of forms of ownership and all owners of land shares;

and conduct explanatory work among the rural population on the rights of land share owners and on land use methods.

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4. Owners of land shares shall be entitled, without the consent of other shareholders, to:

bequeath the land share;

use the land share (with the physical apportionment of the plot of land) for peasant (private) farming and personal subsidiary farming;

sell the land share;

make a gift of the land share;

exchange a land share for a property share or a land share on another farm;

lease the land share (with the physical apportionment of a plot of land) to peasant (private) farms, agricultural organizations, and citizens for personal subsidiary farming;

transfer a land share by rental contract and for lifetime upkeep;

contribute a land share or the right to use that land share to the incorporation capital or share stock of an agricultural organization.

The aforementioned deals involving land shares are to be implemented in accordance with the legislative and other normative-legal acts of the Russian Federation as well as the provisions of this Edict in the light of obligations previously undertaken by owners of land shares. The alienation of land shares in exchange for compensation shall be carried out while observing the rules provided by article 250 of the Russian Federation Civil Code.

The plots of land to be physically apportioned as land shares may be used solely for the production of agricultural produce. The specific purpose of these plots of land may be changed in accordance with Russian Federation legislation.

5. It is established that the leasing of land shares to agricultural organizations and peasant (private) farms and also the transfer to the incorporation capital of agricultural organizations of land shares or the right to use them shall be carried out on the basis of contracts between owners of land shares and agricultural organizations and peasant (private) farms. The contracts are to be registered in the prescribed manner with local land resources and land management committees.

The Russian Federation Government is to approve models of the corresponding contracts within one month.

It is established that contracts for the lease of land shares shall be concluded for at least three years. Individual owners and groups of owners of land shares may issue leases.

When a land share is transferred by lease or for use, the land tax may be paid by the lessee or user by contract with the landowner.

The area of agricultural land to be leased for the production of agricultural produce is unlimited.

6. At the owner's request the organs of local self-government are allowed to redeem his land share to add to the stock of land for redistribution and transfer (sale) to corporate entities and citizens of the Russian Federation for the production of agricultural produce. The procedure and terms of the redemption are to be established by the organs of state power of the components of the Russian Federation.

7. Leaders and specialists of agricultural organs, agricultural specialists of the organs of local self-government and organs of state power of the components of the Russian Federation, as well as leaders and specialists with at least five years' work experience on kolkhozes, sovkhozes, and other agricultural organizations are allowed free of charge to acquire title to land for peasant (private) farming and for use for other purposes in accordance with Russian Federation legislation from farms' vacant lots and the land redistribution fund on the conditions envisaged for the free transfer of plots of land or land shares to citizens who are rural commodity producers.

8. It is established than when agricultural land is transferred into the ownership of citizens and corporate entities, plots of land covered by shrubs and young forests and other nonagricultural land situated between productive lands within the limits of the land to be transferred shall be transferred to their ownership free of charge.

Farmland taken out of agricultural circulation is to be transferred free of charge to citizens and corporate entities who are receiving plots of land for the first time or in addition to existing plots for the production of agricultural produce on condition that they meet at least 50 percent of the cost of developing the land.

9. Organs of self-government shall, within one month of the day of publication of this edict, send all owners of land shares notification of the procedure for the receipt of land share ownership certificates (for those who have not previously received them) in accordance with Russian Federation legislation.

Unwanted land shares for which no applications for land share certificates have been received shall be transferred to (retained by) agricultural organizations which will use them for three years. If during that time the owners of the land share in question have not applied for a land share certificate and have not made a decision on the

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use of the land share it shall remain at the disposal of the agricultural organization for a further three years.

10. The executive organs of the components of the Russian Federation together with the Russian Federation Committee for Land Resources and Land Management shall ensure the implementation of a package of land management work connected with the consolidation [kompaktnoye razmeshcheniye] of plots of land belonging to peasant (private) farms, agricultural cooperatives, other agricultural organizations, and personal subsidiary plots for the purpose of creating the conditions for their voluntary cooperation in the production, processing, and sale of agricultural produce, technical services, provision of utilities, and the improvement of the population's social and consumer services.

The location of a plot of land being assigned as a land share for the formation of a peasant (private) farm, agricultural cooperative, other agricultural organizations, or for a personal subsidiary plot or for the redemption of land shares by the organs of local self-government is to be identified within one month by agreement between the owners of land shares.

In the event of disagreement the decision is to be made by the organ of local self-government with the participation of land resources and land management committees. At the same time the rational organization (consolidation) and quality of the plot of land to be assigned must not be inferior to the farm average.

In the redemption of land shares for state or municipal needs with a change of specific use in accordance with Russian Federation legislation, the location of a plot of land is to be determined on the basis of the urban development document or deed identifying a plot of land for the construction of a facility.

If the owners of land shares disagree with the location of the plot of land allocated to them the dispute shall be resolved judicially.

11. The Russian Federation Government and the executive organs of the components of the Russian Federation shall ensure the prompt financing of land management work connected with the implementation of this edict.

It is established that leaders of the federal executive organs and the executive organs of the components of the Russian Federation who use resources received from the levying of the land tax and the lease payment for land for purposes not envisaged by the federal law "On Payment for Land" shall be held liable in accordance with Russian Federation legislation.

[Signed] B. Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation

[Dated] The Kremlin, Moscow, 7 March 1996

Edict No. 337

Russia: Duma Agrarian Group To Challenge Yeltsin Land Edict

MM1303115096 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 12 Mar 96 p 1

[Interview with Nikolay Kharitonov, leader of the Agrarian Group in the State Duma, by Valentina Nikiforova; place and date not given: "Last Blow Against Breadwinners"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The president signed an edict entitled "On the Implementation of Citizens' Constitutional Rights to Land" 7 March. It was signed despite his promise to State Duma Chairman G. Seleznev 5 March not to expedite it. What will it do for the peasants? Nikolay Mikhaylovich Kharitonov, leader of the Agrarian Group in the State Duma, answered that question.

[Kharitonov] In terms of its destructiveness this edict can only be compared to privatization under Chubays. But things will be even worse in the countryside. The edict unintentionally encourages the peasants to undertake the wholesale redistribution of the land. And there was no need to rush out the edict, either — after all, the **Land Code** has passed its first reading. We will be submitting it for its second and third readings in late March, and we are currently receiving the latest amendments and proposals from Federation components. And the Russian Federation Constitution states in Article 36 Point 3 that "the conditions and procedure for land use are determined on the basis of federal law." Article 17 of the Civil Code also refers all questions pertaining to land to the Land Code.

[Nikiforova] What threat is created by the edict?

[Kharitonov] The threat that land shares can be allocated without the consent of other participants in shared ownership, that they can be bequeathed, with plots of land earmarked, given as a gift, or exchanged for a property share, or even a land share on another farm. And the most worrying point is that they could be sold to citizens. But it does not stipulate **which citizens.** Privatization has resulted in around 12 million peasants becoming shareholders. You can imagine what would happen if even half of these impoverished people were to rush to sell their holdings. This would finally destroy the large farms.

[Nikiforova] Perhaps the president has bowed to the complaints from private farmers that they don't have enough land?

[Kharitonov] We currently have 6.8 million hectares of unclaimed agricultural land in Russia, and just 3,500

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applications for land. It is possible to meet all those requests.

[Nikiforova] And what do you intend to do?

[Kharitonov] We are planning an emergency session of the Agrarian Group, and we are consulting lawyers and appealing to the Constitutional Court.

[Nikiforova] Evidently, the Duma will support you?

[Kharitonov] That is hard to say. "YABLoko" and "Russia Is Our Home" are with the president, while the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia will once again seek its own advantage.

Russia: Duma Factions Condemn Yeltsin's Interfering in Legislation

MM1303101596 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 Mar 96 p 1

[Report by Valentina Nikiforova: "Feelings on Edict Run High"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The edict "On the Implementation of Citizens' Constitutional Rights to Land" signed by B. Yeltsin 7 March has strained the patience of soberminded State Duma deputies. Out of six deputies polled from three factions — the Communist Party of the Russian Federation [CPRF], the Agrarian faction, and "YaBLoko" — five were very negative about the president running the country by edict. And CPRF leader Gennadiy Andreyevich Zyuganov commented as follows:

"It is time to raise in the State Duma the issue of the president's not having the right to interfere in what is the province of the Federal Assembly. This will be done at one of the next Duma sessions."

And indeed it is time. Otherwise we could wake up one fine day to find that overnight our industrious president has taken the entire country into a different galaxy. He just adores resolving global problems on his own. This kind of power should be directed to work for the good of Russians. If only in one region — Chechnya. And it is time for deputies to remember that they are not part of the president's retinue, but are the **legislature.**

Russia: Yeltsin's Antiterrorism Edict Viewed

MM1303111596 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 13 Mar 96 p 1

[Article by Pavel Anokhin: "Professionals From Special Services Given Chance To Prove Themselves. Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin Has Signed Edict 'On Measures To Step Up Struggle Against Terrorism'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the opinion of specialists, the presidential document attests to the head of state's serious intention of waging a merciless struggle against terrorism in any of its manifestations and is an integral system of antiterrorist measures. Above all Boris Yeltsin instructs the Russian Federation president's main state and legal administration, the Russian Federation ministries of justice and internal affairs, the Russian Federal Security Service, and the Russian Federation General prosecutor's Office to submit within two months a draft federal law "on the introduction of changes and additions to the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Criminal Code and RSFSR Criminal Procedure Code" which would regulate questions of the struggle against terrorism.

It is planned to create a coordination organ for the collaboration of the federal organs of executive power in preventing acts of terrorism.

The implementation of antiterrorist operations in Budennovsk, Kizlyar, and Pervomayskoye raised in earnest the question of the special professional training and prompt arming of antiterrorist subunits, whose weakness gave rise to just censure from Russians. The edict directs that basic [profilnoye] training and retraining for specialists be organized for subunits for the struggle against terrorism and that they be provided with modern weapons and combat and special equipment for carrying out antiterrorist operations. The deadline for this directive is the current year.

The power departments have been instructed to elaborate and implement coordinated measures to identify and intercept channels of financing and weapons deliveries to illegal armed formations and other criminal groups. The Russian Foreign Intelligence Service has been instructed to identify the international ties of illegal Russian armed formations and to eliminate their foreign channels of finance and arms deliveries.

The president's edict pays special attention to the mass media. It is no secret that the reporters and commentators of a number of publications and television programs in covering events connected with terrorism often end up almost justifying the violence that has been wrought and even supporting it, which is covered by the banner of lofty aims, most often far-fetched and artificial. The document unequivocally determines the unacceptability of such an approach and instructs that people "be guided by the requirements of Russian Federation legislation and the norms and principles of international law which rule out any forms of justification of terror-

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ism and violence and the dissemination of information creating a threat to citizens' lives."

Russia: Government Session Debates Nonpayments Issue

MM1203124596 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 12 Mar 96 pp 1-2

[Report by Vladimir Kucherenko: "Nonpayments Test the State's Strength"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Nonpayments were the No. 1 issue at the 7 March session of the country's government. The debate was of a pointed and a constructive nature.

Nonpayments have had our economy in a fever since 1992. But the appearance of this crisis is changing. Privatized enterprises are now endeavoring, first of all, to settle up with partners and banks. And then with all the rest.

Therefore the problem of nonpayments is concentrated, above all, in three areas, which largely determine society's stability. There are wage arrears, which prompt people to take extreme actions. There are the debts of the railroad, gas, oil, coal, and electricity sectors, which turn these spheres into major budget debtors and could cause the country's transport and fuel and energy potential to collapse. Finally, there are the budget arrears, which could derail the whole state machine and paralyze it.

The situation has been sharply exacerbated this year: Along with the expenditure on the operations in Chechnya the treasury is being undermined by falling tax receipts — no more than 60 percent of the collection planned in the budget. There has already been a shortfall of over 20 trillion rubles [R]. Russian Federation Finance Minister V. Panskov said that, in order to fulfill all decisions, it is necessary to mobilize R31 trillion for the treasury in March alone by rigidly squeezing it into the receipts schedules. But this is just half the work: This money must reach its target and be used for the right purpose, and not just be "milked" for personal advantage [v "krutezh"]. This is why an effort is needed on the part of all control structures.

Nevertheless, Panskov does not believe in miracles. There is not enough money, it will not be possible to turn the tax collection situation around, and it will be necessary to reduce budget spending. The premier put it more toughly: There will be no investments from the treasury for the time being.

Look for Money in the Banks?

The Russian Federation General Prosecutor's Office was the most harsh. In its opinion, the Ministry of Finance got carried away by loans from commercial banks, with the result that the state was then forced to repay the debts to them with high interest, transferring taxpayers' funds to the bankers' pockets.

The General Prosecutor's Office regards the "outrages in the banks" as one of the causes of the destabilization of the situation in the country, for they hold up the transfer of money to and from the budget. Sometimes for up to a year.

But the banking chaos is just one of the causes of the nonpayments crisis. There are lots of others resulting from the same things — disorganization, irresponsibility, destruction of state control.

Yes, in the end everything hinges on this problem: The state is unable to collect money for the treasury. This is a reflection on the disorderly nature of the whole machinery of power and on everything that was not done during 1992-1995. Because of underfunding the young tax police structures are disintegrating, and their staffers are leaving for commercial structures. Doing their utmost to evade taxes, criminal groupings threaten to kill anyone who dares to poke his nose into their affairs. The "black" cash circulation, which totally evades taxes, has not been surmounted.

Or take the irresponsibility of people in charge, who risk nothing for not making payments into the budget. Also the total lack of control over the regions' authorities. Alas, the Ministry of Finance is only planning to examine the state of the budgets of the Russian Federation's components and to decide which of them are really in need of assistance and which simply want to grab a piece for free from the federal treasury.

The Russian Federation General Prosecutor's Office pointed out that the control systems in the country are working wretchedly. The Ministry of Finance knows how much money it gives out. But not to whom or for what. You cannot call either it, or the federal treasury, or the labor inspectorate efficient. Incidentally, oversight is poor also within other departments.

Circles of Nonpayments

The nonpayments crisis is not just a crisis of the capability of the state's controlling and organizing "machines." It also reflects its feebleness as the guardian of laws and treaties.

"Everyone complains that enterprises have insufficient working capital, which is why they do not pay taxes. But why do the banks not want to provide credit for production?" S. Aleksashenko, deputy chairman of the Central Bank, wondered.

The reason, he believes, is that the banks know that it is almost impossible to recover debts through the

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courts. This takes years of litigation. This is the problem on which the Ministry of Justice and the Prosecutor's Office must work day and night. There is no effective court, and the banks give credit only to the budget. At a big rate of interest. The government temporarily stops up the holes in the treasury, but it is unable to collect taxes and is then obliged to transfer the budget's slender means to the lending banks. But these, once again, have no intention of giving credit to plants and factories. We end up with an infernal vicious circle.

It cannot be broken with any financial means like bills of exchange. Nothing can take the place of the state.

The representative of the Central Bank of Russia believes that a tremendous role in the formation of this pernicious situation was played by "Chubays' privatization," after which privatized enterprises became without exception joint-stock companies or limited partnerships. That is, their owners, on getting into debt, repay only with their firm's property. But in the United States, for example, nine-tenths of all enterprises are structures with full liability, whose owners are obliged to repay debts even with their own personal property.

The opinion is commonly held that the gap between the banks and industry and also the collapse of financial discipline are the result of inactivity on the part of the bankruptcy mechanisms and the poverty of the bankruptcy juridical base.

"We are not bankrupting or recapitalizing anyone, as we attempted to do in 1993-1994!" Premier V. Chernomyrdin stated indignantly at the session. "The Ministry of the Economy has taken a comfortable stand, not making any proposals. So we will start dismissing certain leaders. There will be a special conversation with Ya. Urinson, first deputy minister of the economy."

Thus, the nonpayments crisis is dragging on, and strictly concerted, vigorous efforts by the whole state will be required to surmount it. A lot of measures must also be taken simultaneously, otherwise the opposite result will be obtained.

Vice Premier V. Kadannikov, who now heads the commission on improving the system of payments and accounts, concluded that there are no universal solutions here. It will be necessary to work on blocs of problems, finding specific ways.

The first concerns the means of enforcing taxes. The second is the substitution of goods for money when making payments into the budget. The same with payments into the Pension Fund.

Russia: Gorbachev Collects 1 Million Signatures for Nomination

LD1203192096 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1717 GMT 12 Mar 96

[By Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, March 12 (Itar-Tass) — One million signatures have been collected in Russia to back the nomination of the former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev for the Russian presidency, Aleksandr Manannikov, head of the voter initiative group, said.

Manannikov told a press-conference on Tuesday that signatures were collected in 79 Russian regions as well as in the two largest cities, Moscow and St. Petersburg. The signature collection would go on.

Responding to a question from Itar-Tass, Manannikov said that Gorbachev's election campaign committee is currently being set up. He added that "a well-known young politician" is likely to be Gorbachev's chief campaign organiser.

Members of the election team said Gorbachev's wife Raisa has been trying to talk her husband out of participation in the presidential race.

Members of the action team were unanimous in saying that Gorbachev had "changed as a politician" and that the passed years "have not gone by without a benefit for him."

Gorbachev has yet to send in an official application to the Central Electoral Commission confirming his intention to run for presidency.

At present, he is reportedly engaged in consultations with politicians, "excluding Yegor Gaydar, Gennadiy Zyuganov and Vladimir Zhirinovskiy." However, there have been no reports about the results of these consultations.

Russia: CPRF Election Headquarters Staff Named

MK1303100496 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 12 Mar 96 p 2

[Report by Gleb Cherkasov: "The Communist Party Is Completing Work on Setting Up Its Election Headquarters"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the next few days the work on setting up the election headquarters of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation [CPRF] will be completed. As SEGODNYA learned the headquarters will be run by Valentin Kuptsov, first deputy chairman of the CPRF Central Committee, who headed a similar

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structure during the Duma elections. Mr. Kuptsov will have several deputies, each of whom will be in charge of a separate area of activity. Aleksandr Shabanov, State Duma deputy, will take care of the problems of ideology; Anatoliy Lukyanov, chairman of the Duma Committee for Legislation, will work with deputies, whereas his colleagues, Viktor Zorkaltsev and Yuriy Maslyukov, will be tasked, respectively, with the problems of cooperation with other public associations and with the elaboration of the part of the presidential candidate's program that deals with economic matters. Deputy Aleksey Podberezkin will work with "nonparty" mass media. Deputy Viktor Potapov will be in charge of contacts with the provinces, whereas Viktor Peshkov, his colleague, will be responsible for electoral technologies. Mr. Vidmanov has been tasked to maintain contacts with the corps of directors [of enterprises].

The management of the electoral headquarters of the CPRF has not been officially approved yet, and it cannot be ruled out that its final membership could differ from the above list. It seems certain, however, that Valentin Kuptsov will head the election headquarters in any case.

Russia: APR Agrees To Suspend Zaveryukha's Membership

LD1203213796 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1945 GMT 12 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Mar 12 (Interfax) — The Russian Agrarian Party [APR] leadership will satisfy Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Zaveryukha's request to suspend his membership in the party, Agrarian leader Mikhail Lapshin told Interfax Tuesday, commenting on Zaveryukha's statements made on the Russian television Monday.

According to Lapshin, in the Podrobnosti [Details] program covering the issue of the presidential decree on land Zaveryukha unambiguously sided with the presidential team and said that he had submitted a request to suspend his membership in the Agrarian Party on March 7, the day the decree was signed.

"Now it is possible to say that Zaveryukha made his choice and thus made our task easier: the party leadership has no way out other than to satisfy his request," said Lapshin.

Lapshin described Yeltsin's land decree as "an attempt to play on the private-ownership instincts in the run-up to the presidential elections." He expressed regret that "Zaveryukha, a person who knows agrarian problems, was the ideologue behind the destructive and anticonstitutional document."

To Zaveryukha's criticism of the Agrarian Party's decision to bloc with the Communist Party for the elections, Lapshin confirmed that the two parties differ on the land issue. However, now, especially after the recent meeting between Communist leader Gennadiy Zyuganov and the Agrarian leadership, the gap between the two parties' positions on the issue has narrowed, said Lapshin.

Moreover, he said that on Zyuganov's initiative the Agrarians will form their own bloc in a united front of "popular-patriotic" forces behind Zyuganov.

Russia: Lapshin Criticizes CPRF's Land Policy Platform

964F1420A Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 28 Feb 96 p 2

[Article by Mikhail Lantsman, under the "Property" rubric: "Left Coalition Leaders Diverge on the Question of Land Relations: APR Chairman Accuses CPRF Chairman of Being Illogical"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Agrarian Party [APR] Chairman Mikhail Lapshin said in an interview with the INTERFAX agency that the Communists' platform on land relations adopted at a CPRF [Communist Party of the Russian Federation] conference "does not hold water." The Agrarian leader reproached the Communists for loyalty to the historical legacy that the latter have displayed. "As we near the end of the 20th century, bringing up the question of transferring the land again from the peasants to all-people's ownership, as the CPRF proposes, is at the very least illogical," Mr. Lapshin said on the subject. At the same time, Mr. Lapshin warned of "unpredictable consequences of attempts to focus attention on the question of the right to sell land."

At first glance, the Agrarian Party chairman, who reproached the Communists for being illogical, himself stumbles when it comes to logical thinking, since he does not allow, on the one hand, "all-people's ownership," and on the other—"the right to freely sell and buy land." But this is only at first glance. At a recent press conference Aleksandr Nazarchuk (at the time still minister of agriculture) announced that up to 90 percent of agricultural land in Russia is privately owned. Indeed, former kolkhozes, which have converted into various TOO's [limited liability partnerships], de facto received ownership of agricultural workers' land shares. The Agrarian faction in the fifth State Duma attempted to codify in law the status quo by proposing to the parliament its own version of the Land Code, which deprived peasants of the right to freely dispose of their land shares. The attempt failed largely due to "indifference" on the part of the communist faction.

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Apparently, communist deputies, with their sharply tuned power instinct, did not need to have it explained to them what formidable force this would turn the kolkhoz chairmen into, who in practical terms own the peasants' property.

It is no secret to anyone that the left coalition, which Gennadiy Zyuganov is attempting to become the head of, is far from homogeneous. However, as a rule, public altercations between coalition members take place after an electoral victory. Mr. Lapshin apparently decided to outline the boundaries of a compromise in advance. Instead of "people's ownership" (illogical, in the Agrarians' opinion, at the end of the 20th century), the Agrarian leaders propose a concept that would include all the best from the past and the future: from the past—state protectionism, 100 percent state orders, and priority financing; from the present—transformation of kolkhozes into latifundia.

However, the Agrarian Party's political luggage does not give it room to maneuver in negotiations with allies. The latest parliamentary elections showed that the party does not control the "peasant" vote. Therefore, most likely the Agrarians will have to give in to the Communists' logic.

Military Issues

Russia: Chernomyrdin Remarks on 'Fuss' Over Grachev Rumors

LD1303144696 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1426 GMT 13 Mar 96

[By Gennadiy Yezhov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, March 13 (Itar-Tass) — "I have no confirmation of rumours about the upcoming resignation of Defence Minister Pavel Grachev," Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said.

The statement was made during his trip to the Khrunichev space research centre in Moscow on Wednesday.

"I do not understand all this fuss in the mass media around Pavel Grachev," he added.

The premier stressed that Grachev "continues to work as defense minister.... All decisions on candidatures for the position of the head of the Defence Ministry are made by the president."

Earlier today, Russian Federation Council Chairman Yegor Stroyev told journalists, in reply to the question whether Grachev's resignation may help resolve the Chechen conflict, that "it is not a specific person that matters, but a political course."

He said that the war in Chechnya should have been ended long ago, adding that all chances are there.

Stroyev noted that President Boris Yeltsin has prepared a programme to settle the Chechen conflict and will make it public in the near future.

He believes the programme will become an "integral part of the needed political course to resolve the Chechen crisis."

Russia: Medvedev: No Proof of Grachev's Possible Resignation

LD1203131096 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1015 GMT 12 Mar 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Surzhanskiy]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 12 Mar (ITAR-TASS) — Sergey Medvedev, press secretary to the Russian president, has no documentary proof of plans to replace Oleg Lobov as secretary of the Russian Federation Security Council nor, furthermore, of plans to move Defense Minister Pavel Grachev to that post. The Russian head of state's press secretary spoke today at a meeting with journalists in the Kremlin.

However, Sergey Medvedev said that the appearance at the Security Council session on 7 March of Oleg Lobov, who recently underwent a serious heart operation, "was a surprise". "It was Oleg Lobov's own decision, and he realized what it could mean for his health," stressed the Russian Federation president's press secretary.

"I wouldn't like to overdramatize the situation," noted Sergey Medvedev, denying rumors that Oleg Lobov was taken away in a serious condition after the last session of the Security Council. Describing the session which was devoted to the Chechen crisis, the president's press secretary stressed that "there was quite tough talking at it, and stringent demands were made of all participants in the meeting."

As far as Defense Minister Pavel Grachev is concerned, Sergey Medvedev has "no proof whatsoever" of his possible resignation or his move to another post. Asked whether anything was said at the Security Council session about Pavel Grachev's resignation, the head of state's press secretary said: "I obviously cannot say whether such a matter was raised as I did not attend the Security Council session."

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Russia: Yavlinskiy: Yeltsin May Fire Grachev in 'Populist Game'

LD1303120696 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1145 GMT 13 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, March 13 (Interfax) — Leader of the Yabloko movement Grigoriy Yavlinskiy believes that Defense Minister Pavel Grachev's possible dismissal might be motivated exclusively by the beginning of President Yeltsin's election campaign.

It is not motivated by "regular failures in Chechnya, or the latest events in Groznyy, or the absence of any signs of military reform," he said in an interview with Interfax, commenting on the reports about Grachev's upcoming dismissal.

He said Yeltsin's decision to dismiss Grachev, if it is ever taken, will add to the list of his populist moves timed to coincide with the beginning of the election campaign, which includes his pledge to pay off all wage and pension arrears in March, the demonstrative declaration of war on corruption and, most important, the promise to end the war in Chechnya "in April or May."

Neither Grachev's dismissal, nor any resolutions of the Russian Security Council will cardinally improve the situation in Chechnya, said Yavlinskiy.

He said that by pursuing his policy, Yeltsin had already brought the communists to victory in December, "doing nothing to awaken trust in genuinely democratic values in people."

"His present-day anti-communist slogans are nothing but a populist game played with the democratic electorate. Meanwhile, what the current leadership should do now is fight against its own political impotence," said Yavlinskiy.

Russia: Grachev: Airborne Troops To Be Adapted for Local Conflicts

LD1303101596 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1006 GMT 13 Mar 96

[By Mikhail Shevtsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW March 13 (Itar-Tass) — The Russian Defence Ministry is considering reorganisation of airborne troops on Wednesday as their current structure does not allow them to cope with such new tasks as the conflict in Chechnya.

Defence Minister Pavel Grachev said at the meeting of the ministry's leadership that "the airborne troops at present do not correspond to the tasks which they will have to solve". He explained that the experience of recent local conflicts and wars demands another way of developing the airborne troops.

It was initially reported that airborne troops would be subordinated to military districts which some mass media qualified as ruining of the elite arm of the armed forces.

But Grachev said the fears were groundless. "The issues of airborne troops development are being dealt with only by specialists", said the minister who used to be a paratrooper himself.

The meeting was then proceeded behind close doors and the main report was delivered by airborne troops commander Evgeny Podkolzin.

Russia: Antimissile Defenses Affected by Underfunding

LD1303102196 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 0600 GMT 13 Mar 96

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent Aleksandr Galkin] [video shows archive film of missile testing] Exactly 35 years ago the payload of a ballistic rocket was blown to smithereens at the Stariy Shagan test range by an interceptor missile for the first time in history. This fact was top secret for many years. Here you see some of the recently declassified film.

The Americans managed to do something similar only a decade later. Realizing that it was lagging behind, the United States sought and obtained during a period of detente an antimissile defense treaty which placed a ban on developing new systems and covering the whole territory of both countries with an antimissile umbrella. The Americans back then decided to protect their weapons of retribution — launch silos containing ballistic missiles. The USSR shielded Moscow from attack. A renewed new-generation antimissile system today shields the capital.

[Ye. Andreychuk, first deputy chief designer, speaking in office] The United States doesn't have a system like it but that doesn't mean that Russia has an advantage because in recent times funding of work on antimissile defense here has been around 10 to 15 percent of that required while the U.S. Congress has decided to expand and increase considerably funding for work on antimissile defense.

[Correspondent] In fact, the 1972 treaty is stopping them from exploiting their full potential but a draft law was submitted to the Senate literally just a few days ago which asks the U.S. President to abrogate the agreement. The treaty will probably be dissolved and Russia will now have to catch up with the Americans.

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Federal Assembly

Russia: Legislative, Regulatory Documents 25 Feb-2 Mar

96P50058

[FBIS Report] The following is a listing of Russian legislation recently published in the press of the Russian Federation compiled by FBIS. Numbers within parens indicate approximate wordage. Entries followed by the notation "Text" have been translated into English and are available in FBIS publications.

SECTION I: ECONOMIC LEGISLATION (EXPORT-IMPORT, BANKING, PRIVATIZATION, AUCTIONS, REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT)

Chernomyrdin-Signed 12 December Government Decree No. 1218 On Improving System Of Information Provision In Sphere Of Standardization, Metrology, And Certification. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Feb 96 p 6) (550) (Text)

Chernomyrdin-Signed 27 December Government Decree No. 1294 On Amending Plan Of Measures For Implementation Of Comprehensive Program For Stimulating Domestic And Foreign Investments In RF Economy. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Feb 96 p 6) (250) (Text)

Government 16 January Decree No. 40 On Regulating Export Of Cotton. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Mar 96 p 12) (200)

Government 16 January Decree No. 41 Transferring Federally Owned Enterprises To Buryat Republic's Jurisdiction. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Feb 96 p 5) (400)

Government 27 January Decree No. 60 Approving Appended (But Not Published) Statute On Ministry Of Fuel And Energy, Plus Aleksandr Linkov Commentary. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Mar 96 p 6) (100/600) (Text)

Government 2 February Decree No. 81 On Measures To Ensure Deliveries Of Oil Products To Kamchatka Oblast, Plus Ostankin Commentary. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Feb 96 p 5) (350/600) (Text)

Government 2 February Decree No. 106 Transferring Federally Owned Enterprises To Rostov Oblast's Jurisdiction. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Feb 96 p 5) (250)

Government 2 February Directive No. 127 Accepting Goskomimushchestvo Proposal On Transfer Of Military Bases In Kaliningrad Oblast To Oblast's Jurisdiction. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Mar 96 p 6) (300)

Government 12 February Decree No. 141 On Approving And Submitting For Ratification Customs Union Agreement (Not Further Specified) Signed In Moscow On 20 January 1995. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Mar 96 p 12) (120)

Government 16 February Decree No. 149 Approving Appended (But Not Published) Federal Targeted Program For Pskov Oblast's Socioeconomic Development In 1996-1998. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Feb 96 p 5) (400)

Government 19 February Decree No. 154 Approving Appended Procedure For The Compilation And Maintenance Of Register Of Economic Entities Accounting For More Than 35 Percent Of The Market For Certain Goods. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Feb 96 p 5) (300/1500)

Government 19 February Decree No. 166 On Amendments And Additions To Statute On Social Security Fund. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Feb 96 p 5) (450)

Government 19 February Directive No. 193 Ratifying Composition Of Federal Fund For Support For Small Enterprise Supervisory Board. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Mar 96 p 5) (400)

Chernomyrdin-Signed 21 February Government Decree No. 165 On State Support For Insurance Companies For Private Farmers. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Feb 96 p 6) (250)

State Duma 21 February Decree No. 102-ii On Privatization Of 'Norilskiy Nikel' Joint-Stock Company And Formation Of Duma Commission To Audit Its Privatization. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Feb 96 p 5) (800)

Government 26 February Decree No. 167 Approving Appended (And Published In 'Business In Russia' Section) Statute For Licensing Of Leasing Activity In Russian Federation. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Mar 96 p 5) (50)

Government 26 February Decree No. 173 On Amending Composition Of Government Commission For Traffic Safety. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Mar 96 p 6) (200)

Government 26 February Decree No. 181 On Ratification Of Agreement To Create Free Trade Zone Signed 15 April 1994 (Not Further Identified). (Moscow

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ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Mar 96 p 6) (50)

Government 26 February Decree No. 182 On Ratification Of Agreement To Create Economic Union's Interstate Economic Committee. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Mar 96 p 6) (50) (Text)

Government 26 February Directive No. 233 On Loan Of R30 Billion To Republic Of Tyva For Payment Of Wage Arrears. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Mar 96 p 5) (100)

Government 26 February Directive No. 234 Accepting Defense Ministry Proposal On Use Of Military Transport Aviation To Carry Foodstuffs And Other Commodities To Far North And Other Regions. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Mar 96 p 5) (100) (Text)

Government 26 February Directive No. 244 Submitting Law On Amendments To Law On 1995 Federal Budget To State Duma, Appointing Finance Minister Panskov Government Spokesman. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Mar 96 p 5) (100)

Government 26 February Directive No. 246 Submitting Law On Amendments To Law On Subsidies For Citizens With Children To State Duma, Appointing Deputy Minister Of Social Welfare Panov Government Spokesman. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Mar 96 p 5) (100)

Yeltsin 26 February Edict No. 276 On Formation Of Federal Service For Regulating Natural Monopolies In Transport. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Mar 96 p 5) (400)

Yeltsin 27 February Edict No. 292 On Transfer Of Federally-Owned Shares In Privatized Companies To Federation Components. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Mar 96 p 5) (500)

SECTION II: POLITICAL (INTERNATIONAL AND CIS AFFAIRS, ELECTIONS, CRIME, POLLUTION)

Government 26 December Decree No. 1266 On Conclusion Of Agreement (Not Published) With Pakistan On Cooperation In Suppressing Illegal Narcotics, Psychotropic Substances. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Mar 96 p 11) (250)

Chernomyrdin-Signed 12 January Government Decree No. 17 On Interdepartmental Commission For Questions Of World Trade Organization. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Feb 96 p 6) (250) (Text)

Government 12 January Decree No. 19 Approving Appended (But Not Published) Agreement On Military Cooperation With Qatar. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Feb 96 p 6) (200) (Text)

Chernomyrdin-Signed 20 January Government Directive No. 67 On Extending Until 30 September 1996 Period Of Payment Of Bonuses To Staffers Of RF Institutions In Certain Countries Of Near And Far Abroad And Specialists Sent To Some Of These Countries. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Feb 96 p 6) (300)

Chernomyrdin-Signed 25 January Government Decree No. 59 On Transfer To President's Administration Of Affairs Of Powers Governing Management And Disposal Of Items Of Federal Property. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Feb 96 p 6) (200) (Text)

Government 27 January Decree No. 73 On Economic Counselors At RF Embassies In CIS Member States, Approving Statute On Such Counselors Plus Appended Statute. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Mar 96 p 14) (300/800)

Government 27 January Decree No. 74 Detailing Composition Of Russian Part Of Joint Russian-Ukrainian Commission On Cooperation. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Mar 96 p 11) (900)

Government 31 January Decree No. 83 On Implementation Of Presidential Edict No. 854 Of 16 August 1995 On Social Guarantees For Persons Deputizing For Officials With Appended Statute And Appendix Approved By Aforesaid Decree (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Mar 96 p 11) (4000)

Government 2 February Decree No. 125 Requesting Preparation Of Procedures Enabling Federal Courier Service To Deliver Correspondence On Contractual Basis. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Feb 96 p 5) (50)

Government 2 February Decree No. 95 On Urgent Measures To Improve Ecological Situation Along Volga And Its Tributaries, Plus Petrov Commentary. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Feb 96 p 4) (600/400)

Government 2 February Decree No. 102 Establishing Trade Representative's Apparatus At Embassy In Latvia. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Mar 96 p 12) (250)

Government 8 February Directive No. 163 On Granting Belarus Use Of Military Test Ranges. (Moscow

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ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Mar 96 p 13) (150) (Text)

Government 8 February Directive No. 164 On Submission Of Draft Urbanization Code For State Duma's Consideration, Appointing Deputy Minister Of Construction Krivov As Government Spokesman During Debate. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Feb 96 p 5) (100)

Chernomyrdin-Signed 8 February Government Directive No. 165 On Submission To State Duma Of Draft Law On Amendments To RSFSR Law On Environmental Protection, Designation Of Environment Minister Danilov-Danilyan To Represent Government During Federal Assembly's Examination Of Draft. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Feb 96 p 6) (150)

Government 13 February Decree No. 146 On Entry Into Force Of Oil Transit Agreement With Azerbaijan. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Mar 96 p 13) (150)

Yeltsin 14 February Edict No. 197 On Urgent Measures For Implementing Federal Law On Amendments And Additions To Law On Federal Tax Police Organs And To RSFSR Criminal Procedure Code. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Feb 96 p 5) (900)

State Duma 16 February Decree No. 93-ii Amending Part 4 Of Article 38 Of Duma's Standing Orders. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Feb 96 p 5) (150)

Government 19 February Directive No. 200 Approving Appended (But Not Published) Plan For Preparing Draft Laws And Other Normative Documents For Implementation Of Law On Land Reclamation. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Feb 96 p 6) (150)

Chernomyrdin-Signed 19 February Government Directive No. 209 On Change In Procedure For Providing Motor Vehicle Transportation For Ministry For Cooperation With CIS States. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Feb 96 p 6) (250)

Yeltsin 19 February Edict No. 210 Extending Term Of 'Children Of Russia' Presidential Program, Plus 'Children Of Russia' Presidential Program For 1996-1997, And Volkova Account Of Interview With Vice Premier Yarov Commenting On This Program. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Feb 96 p 4) (400/2500/900)

Russian Federation Constitutional Court Ruling 5 Of 20 February On Constitutionality Of Parts 1 And 2 Of Article 18, Article 19, And Part 2 Of Article 20 Of Federal Law On Status Of Deputies Of The Federation Council And Deputies Of the State Duma Of The Russian Federation Federal Assembly. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Feb 96 p 6) (3500)

Yeltsin-Signed 21 February Directive No. 78 On Lifting Of UN-Imposed Sanctions Against Bosnian Serbs. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Feb 96 p 6) (600) (Text)

Yeltsin 22 February Directive No. 81 On Russian Legal Reforms Fund. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Feb 96 p 5) (600)

Yeltsin 23 February Directive No. 88 On Russian Delegation's Participation In 13-15 May International Conference On Global Information Community In South Africa. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Feb 96 p 5) (100)

Government 23 February Directive No. 230 On Implementation Of Presidential Decisions On Backup For Legal Reform. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Mar 96 p 5) (400)

Yeltsin 23 February Edict No. 274 Deeming Earlier Edicts On Television And Radio Broadcasting Lapsed. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Feb 96 p 5) (300)

Government 26 February Decree No. 170 Amending Earlier Decree On Payments To Staffers Of Russian Prosecutor's Office And Members Of Their Families. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Mar 96 p 5) (300)

Government 26 February Decree No. 175 On Inclusion Of S.N. Khadzhiyev In Composition Of Russian Part Of Joint Russian-Ukrainian Commission On Cooperation. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Mar 96 p 11) (100)

Government 26 February Directive No. 245 Accepting Hydrometeorology Committee Proposals On Cooperation Talks With Its French Counterpart. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Mar 96 p 5) (100) (Text)

Agreement With Kazakhstan Government On Creation Of Interstate Finance And Industrial Group. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Mar 96 p 12) (900)

Agreement With Estonian Government On Cooperation In Standardization, Metrology, Certification. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Mar 96 p 12) (900)

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Agreement With Uzbekistan Government On Establishing 'Suffa' International Radio Astronomy Observatory. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Mar 96 p 12) (2800)

Undated Government Agreement With Belarusian Cabinet On Cooperation In Tourism. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Mar 96 p 13) (750)

Undated Government Agreement With Belarus ian Cabinet On Reciprocal Recognition Of Construction Licenses. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Mar 96 p 13) (800)

Undated Treaty With Turkmenistan On Border Protection, Status Of Border Troops. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Mar 96 p 13) (2800) (Text)

SECTION III: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

State Committee For Sanitary-Epidemiological Inspection Of The RF Ministry Of Health And The Medical Industry 22 December Order No. 134/362 On Additional Mass Immunizations Of Children Against Polio And Attachment 1 To This Order On A Recommendation For Conducting Additional Mass Immunizations-National Immunization Days. Moscow MEDITSINSKAYA GAZETA in Russian No. 8, 26 Jan 96 p 9) (1200/400)

Government 26 February Directive No. 255 Approving Ministry Of Science Activity For Elaborating Collaboration Agreement With U.S. Foundation For Support For Civilian Research And Development. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Mar 96 p 5) (100) (Text)

Recommendations On Intellectual Property. Moscow POISK in Russian No. 8 (354), 17-23 Feb 96 pp 4-5) (5500) (Text)

Statute On Interstate Committee On Scientific And Technical Development Aimed At Promoting Coordination Of Processes Of Collaboration Among CIS States In Context Of Agreement On Establishing Common Scientific And Technical Space In CIS States. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Mar 96 p 14) (1800)

Russia: Speaker Stroyev Assures Yeltsin of Senate Impartiality

MK1303121596 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian
No. 10, 10-17 Mar 96 (signed to press 11 Mar 1996) p 6

[Report by Anna Ostapchuk: "Stroyev Has Calmed the President"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Senate Speaker Yegor Stroyev has guaranteed to the president the "impartiality and objectivity" of the upper house in the presidential election campaign.

So far the new leaders of the Russian parliament have not entered the narrow circle of persons making decisions that are vital to Russia's fate at Security Council sessions. Relations between them and the president are only beginning to be organized. Some conclusions about the character of these interrelations, however, can be made from the tone of their regular meetings with Boris Yeltsin. Last week the president met with leaders of both Federal Assembly houses.

Judging by the information Yegor Stroyev shared with journalists after emerging from a meeting with the president, one of the most painful questions for Boris Yeltsin is the possibility of the "politicization of parliament." According to the speaker the president raised the question about "the inadmissibility of the politicization of the Federation Council — or the State Duma for that matter — in the run up to the presidential elections." These structures, according to the president, "should preserve stability, balance, appropriateness, and a correct approach to ongoing processes."

Meanwhile Yegor Stroyev is convinced that "the Federation Council will sustain such a line because the regions themselves are more interested in stability than in any sharp movements or vacillations." According to the speaker, there are "tens of factors" that will restrain the Federation Council from emerging as a "political arena," guaranteeing its "impartiality and objectivity." One of the most important factors is that "nearly all Federation Council members are themselves to face elections six months to a year from now. And an attempt to publicly articulate a leftist or a rightist thought today will place him in an embarrassing situation tomorrow, when he himself enters a contest."

It should also be added here that another important factor towards "stability" in the Federation Council is that upper house members effectively have no wish to tempt their fate in the presidential elections. There is only one Yeltsin rival who has publicly proclaimed his intentions, Aman Tuleyev, but even he is likely to remove his candidacy in the very near term.

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Russia: Duma Investigates 'Forced' Signature Collection for Yeltsin

LD1303100096 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0906 GMT 13 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 13 Mar — The Russian State Duma decided at its plenary sitting on Wednesday to ask the Russian General Prosecutor's Office and the State Electoral Commission to "officially appraise the facts of forced collection of voters' signatures" in favor of nominating Boris Yeltsin as a candidate for the post of Russian president.

The deputies allege that the forced collection of signatures supporting Yeltsin "is taking place at Russian communication ministry enterprises."

Economic Issues

Russia: Deputy Minister Comments on Budget Shortfall

MM1203113996 Moscow FINANSOVYYE IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 Mar 96 p II

[Article by Yevgeniya Pismennaya: "Government Begins Battle for Budget Revenue"]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to preliminary government estimates the budget will receive only 12 trillion rubles [R] in tax payments in February. This is R1 trillion less than initially forecast by the State Tax Service. In addition, the budget will receive R2.4 trillion earned from the sale of securities, R0.4 trillion from privatization, R1.2 trillion from Central Bank profits transferred to the federal budget, and around R5.6 trillion from foreign economic activity. But February's planned outlay on essential budget expenditure was R33.6 trillion. Obviously, all this month's earnings (totaling R21.6 trillion) are not enough, the deficit totals around R12 trillion.

Deputy Finance Minister Sergey Shatalov believes that by March- April the government will be able to "rectify" the situation that has developed through "certain measures." Specifically, the government is pinning its hopes on a quick return from January's presidential edict on restructuring enterprises' budget debts, which will provide around R6 trillion for the whole year. Attempts are being made to solve the problem of monitoring the accuracy and timeliness of tax payments.

Besides this, the Finance Ministry and the State Tax Service are in parallel drafting presidential edicts aimed at combating "black cash" which envisage fairly tough measures. The government intends to curtail the currently thriving business of turning money into cash. A number of amendments to the existing tax laws are also being prepared in order to terminate the many legal methods of evading tax.

An increase in budget revenue is expected from the introduction of the law "On Excise Duties," which was recently adopted by the State Duma and Federation Council but which has not yet been signed by the president. An analysis of the situation that developed in 1995 regarding the receipt of taxes and duties on alcoholic products shows that the amounts of these receipts would have been much higher had it not been for certain negative factors. The ubiquitous saturation of the market through underground production and the importation of alcohol into Russian customs territory from CIS countries has had an extremely adverse effect on the dynamics of earnings from taxes and duties on alcoholic products.

Last year Russian production was 6-7 percent less than the volumes on which projected budget revenue from excise duty receipts was based. The uncontrolled release of industrial types of alcohol continued under direct contracts, that is to say on more preferential terms than food industry alcohol, which can be released only under license. Even the introduction of excise duty on ethyl rectified alcohol made from nonfood raw materials has not led to the desired result. Some regions' organs of power have adopted illegal decisions to reduce rates of excise duty on alcoholic products and to channel the excise duty sums into expanding various production facilities. Such decisions have been adopted in Tatarstan, the Republic of Sakha, Stavropol Kray, and Leningrad Oblast.

The law "On Excise Duties" envisages norms which envisage cutting off channels of evading taxation in the form of excise duties, specifically by introducing an "accounting mechanism [zachetnyy mekhanizm]" covering the use of all types of alcohol to produce alcoholic products. At the same time until the law is passed an interdepartmental working group has prepared a package of documents aimed at increasing the budget's income element through earnings from taxes on alcoholic products and at stabilizing this market, which have been adopted by the president and government (three presidential edicts and six government decrees). Incidentally, the procedure for adopting the law "On Excise Duties" took around one and a half years, because of which the law is largely obsolete. Shatalov fears that a new and protracted procedure to make amendments could now begin.

The long-suffering law "On Value Added Tax" is due to be adopted in the near future. One of the main innovations is the change in the procedure for claiming a reduction of input tax [vkhodnyy nalog], which is paid

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when acquiring fixed capital and nonmaterial assets. In accordance with the new version of the law the value added tax break for housing construction has been reinstated in certain circumstances.

The government is soberly assessing budget losses through the abolition of the tax on the above-norm labor remuneration fund and the special tax. The scrapping of the tax on the above-norm labor remuneration fund alone represents a loss of R27 trillion. But in Shatalov's opinion the provision is not so catastrophic. A reduction in these taxes should have a secondary effect — the population will have extra funds and the goods market will be revived, which is considerably more difficult to put a figure to. It all depends on how the political and economic situation in the country develops.

Lastly, a promising area on which the Finance Ministry has pinned its hopes of an improvement in the budget's income element is the adoption of a Tax Code, which will fundamentally change the tax system in Russia. According to an optimistic forecast the adoption of the first part of the code, which does not affect specific rates but merely regulates tax relations, is expected by the beginning of fall. The second and subsequent parts of the code will be submitted to the government no later than 15 April.

Russia: Privatization Set To Yield Only R8 Trillion This Year

MM1203154196 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 12 Mar 96 p 1

[Report by Aleksey Myasnikov: "Privatization Not Yielding Treasury the Promised Trillions"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow — The privatization program is not yielding the treasury the trillions that it promised, according to Aleksandr Kazakov, vice premier of the Russian Federation Government and chairman of the State Committee for the Management of State Property [GKI].

It was expected that privatization would yield around 30 trillion rubles [R] in 1996. The figure given in the budget is 12 trillion but the GKI is promising no more than R8 trillion. What is more, Kazakov does not know the money is going to come from because the controlling blocks of shares in such wealthy organizations as Gazprom and Rosgosstrakh have already been sold off and no longer belong to the state.

Russia: Motives for Ministry Deposits With Commercial Banks Queried

MM1203165396 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 12 Mar 96

[Report by Yevgeniy Anisimov: "Deputy's Questions. Ex-Minister B. Fedorov Versus Finance Minister V. Panskov"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The first rumors of unusual activity by the Russian Finance Ministry appeared last summer: Various sources maintained insistently that the Finance Ministry had held a closed competition and decided on a number of banks in which certain foreign currency reserves were placed. The terms for the deposits were very favorable to the banks: the term — up to the end of 1995; the interest — minimal; the sums substantial — hundreds of millions of dollars. Where did the Finance Ministry get such substantial currency reserves? But nobody was expecting to get an answer to that interesting question. There was considerably more interest in finding out what the banks intended to do with the wealth that had descended upon them. Two hypotheses arose.

First — the Finance Ministry had chosen banks loyal to the authorities and thrown money at them in the hope of their support for electoral associations that are close to the authorities. The second hypothesis was much more down-to-earth and hence more plausible. The second, monetary stage of privatization is getting under way and the banks badly need substantial currency reserves in order to participate successfully in auctions for the sale of enterprises. So the Finance Ministry did a great favor to a number of commercial banks from among those it trusted. This is, I repeat, no more than a hypothesis.

Then a bizarre report appeared, from which it transpired that the Finance Ministry is very easy-going with the country's capital — the debts of various countries to Russia. In particular, it was claimed that the National Reserve Bank had received several hundred million dollars (part of the so-called Indian debt) without payment in rubles, that is, on credit, without interest. At the time it was not possible to obtain confirmation of this, which is not surprising, since too much money was involved and the circumstances were too bizarre. However, in recent days an open letter has appeared, from former Russian Finance Minister Boris Fedorov to the present Finance Minister Vladimir Panskov, in which all the questions that people in the know were gossiping about behind the scenes are raised openly. Is it true that the "National Credit" bank has received from the Finance Ministry currency bonds worth $750 million, and how were they used? (They say that these were the bonds offered at privatization auctions.)

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Is it true that banks have received Finance Ministry currency deposits in the shape of the accumulation of funds for payment of the debt to the London Club, at minimal rates and without competition? Who makes these decisions? These are just some of the questions, the rest of which, although of some interest to the broad public, are, however, of a rather specialized nature and would require excessively lengthy explanations.

For us, two points in this story are important: If such questions are being asked by a former finance minister (who is familiar with the many nuances of the ministry's work), this means that there are grounds for the accusations in the lobbies that V. Panskov (and, more broadly, the government) is biased in his attitude toward certain commercial banks. And, second: Will State Duma Deputy B. Fedorov, and not only him, but other citizens too, get answers to these questions?

These questions, and the answers to them, might be purely academic were it not for one thing: The second, monetary, stage of privatization is provoking fierce disputes. In certain specific situations the results of investment competitions and auctions could become the cause of mass protests by enterprises' collectives and entail a long chain of consequences inevitably leading in the end to the June Russian presidential elections. Because the results of privatization and the methods of conducting the auctions and competitions could be used as trump cards by the fiercest opponents of private ownership of the means of production. And that is far from an academic question....

Russia: Successes of VIST Computer Firm Outlined

964F1386A Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA (DELOVOY VTORNIK Supplement) in Russian 5 Mar 96 p 2

[Article by Andrey Podkopalov: "VIST—A Computer Not Just for Games: It Appears Russia Has Learned To Manufacture Quality Computers"]

[FBIS Translated Text] While a couple of decades ago in order to be accepted, for instance, into the great powers club it was quite enough for a country to have a nuclear truncheon and send a satellite into space, more or less by the end of 1970's one could not be accepted into polite society without one's own electronics industry. Perhaps this is why so many tears have been shed on the subject of our backwardness in this sphere and why Stalin's scientologists were so angrily castigated, those who in the past quashed cybernetics in our country as a pseudoscience—in short, the phobias on the subject of our domestic industry's electronic impotence are well known.

The more surprising is the fact that today, even as we, generally speaking, have despaired to the point of giving up the phobias and becoming resigned to the blanket expansion of Western brand-name computer companies, a high-quality domestic-manufactured computer has finally entered our market.

The VIST company emerged on the Russian market quite recently— only in 1992. Somewhat unnoticed (to an outside observer, of course), it grew from a "basement operator" and "gray-market" assembler into a very large manufacturer of quite competitive—even by world standards—computer equipment. On the other hand, this road to maturity—starting with a pirozhki street stand, then renting a kiosk, and then moving into a downtown store—is probably the only viable one for a viable market structure. It is not accidental that, as a rule, other computer projects in the form of state companies on the basis of existing enterprises have happily gone under.

It is important to have special intuition, the ability to see and calculate at least two steps ahead—that is, qualities that are impossible to acquire in greenhouse conditions, but only when risking one's own money, name, and, if you wish, the shirt on your back.

And now the plain facts. Facts that speak for themselves. In 1995 more than 150,000 VIST brand computers were made and sold, accounting for about 15 percent of the Russian personal computer market. About half these machines are made today at Kvant—the only high-technology enterprise in Russia, located in Zelenograd near Moscow. In the middle of 1995 the enterprise put into production Pentium-based machines—today they account for half of all VIST- brand computers, and in 1996 the company will almost fully switch to Pentium-based machines. Actually, the company sometimes utilizes new generations of processors sooner than leading Western manufacturers, thanks to a direct and close partnership with the Intel company (the motherboards and most components are supplied by an Intel plant in Ireland). Suffice it to say that the company is already selling full-speed the machines running on the famous Pentium Pro.

Other features in VIST's operations that one is unaccustomed to in the Russian economy are its extreme flexibility in working with customers—in the company's head store you can have a computer in custom configuration ready literally within an hour. One can also custom-order the machine's "innards" through any VIST dealer (of which there are more than 120 on the territory of Russia and the CIS), although in this case the waiting period will be a little longer. The two-year warranty on practically all the company's equipment and an ex-

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tensive service network (47 geographic locations)—and keep in mind that your machine's problems are taken care of regardless of where you bought it—make purchasing VIST equipment absolutely safe: You are not going to face repair-related headaches, from which, by the way, even users of "snow-white" Western equipment are not insured.

Of course, all the above may be seen as merely advertising for the company and something that has no real bearing on computer manufacturing. In reality, however, the combination of all these factors comprises in fact that precious "big secret" of developing a true brand name for a computer. It is clear even to the minimally initiated today that in order to manufacture quality computers we do not need to send Major Pronins from the omnipotent KGB to the West to steal technological secrets. Everything is much more simple—we need to learn to sell and service computers.

This is what VIST general director Aleksandr Rapoport thinks about the subject:

"I believe that the company's current stable development is a result of our forecasting capabilities, the ability to anticipate the state of the Russian market and its trends. At least, so far we have not made any gross mistakes. This also includes our reliance on only quality components made by the world's most famous manufacturers—we made this decision back at the time when 'gray' equipment was selling like hotcakes and the consumer was more interested in low price than the computer's quality. On top of this, characteristic trait of that period was lack of confidence in equipment of 'red,' domestic assembly, and it was very difficult to believe that somebody would be able to compete as an equal with 'brands' in terms of product quality. But we believed that the period of total computer illiteracy of the Russian consumer was coming to an end and soon it would be commonly understood that it does not make any difference where the computer is assembled—America, Taiwan, or Russia—as long as the components are the same, along with the assembly procedures and quality control. At this level of user literacy, a greater role will be played by prices, warranty, and service. And in this field we know how to play: Prices for our machines are 30-40 percent lower than those for analogous Western models, and post-sale service is substantially better.

"We also made a good guess in 1995 when we began to produce multimedia home systems, including Pentium-based ones—today this is the fastest-growing sector of the computer market: About 40 percent of our computers are purchased for home use, and in the future this share will increase.

"We hope that we have correctly calculated the latest move, too: We recently introduced Forward servers for small work groups, because with the current dynamics of small and medium-size business development, the demand for them should steadily grow.

"Only distribution can slow us down, and this is why a few days ago we signed a partnership agreement with Partiya, a very large retail company; they like our equipment and have already test-distributed it through their stores, and we like their style and scale—we are counting on a substantial increase in sales. I want to underscore another unique feature of this agreement: It is probably the first large-scale project in the Russian computer business without any participation of Western companies and capital."

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International Affairs

Ukraine: Kuchma Hopes for Success Against Terrorism

LD1203214096 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1945 GMT 12 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, March 12 (Interfax - Ukraine) — Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma said he hoped that the anti- terrorism summit in Egypt would manage to produce a mechanism to combat crime.

"Ukraine cannot stand on the sidelines in the battle with terrorism and intends to take specific measures to resolve that problem," Kuchma told an Interfax - Ukraine correspondent in Kiev Tuesday after talks with Dutch Prime Minister Wim Kok.

"I want participants in the forum in Egypt to work out a mechanism to combat terrorism" rather than just make declarations, Kuchma said. He conceded that "this requires serious financial expenditures." The summit in Egypt should also focus on the funding of the struggle against terrorism, Kuchma said.

The anti-terrorism summit in Egypt is very important not only for the countries involved in the forum, Kuchma said. The threat of terrorism exists for Ukraine as well: "from the point of view of the developments taking place in the Caucasus and other hot spots," Kuchma said.

Ukraine: Cuban Delegation Meets Ukrainian Communists

LD1203181396 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1145 GMT 12 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — A meeting of communist people's deputies met Jaime Crombet Hernandez-Baquero, the vice-president of Cuba's National Assembly of the People's Power, at the Ukrainian Supreme Council on 11 March 1996. "The Cuban people should know that the sympathies of the Ukrainian communists and all of the Ukrainian people will always be on the side of the Cuban people," Petro Symonenko noted. "Ukraine's communists are in favor of further expanding mutually advantageous trade and economic relations between Ukraine and Cuba". He expressed sincere thanks to the Cuban people for their unselfish assistance in treating children affected by the Chernobyl accident.

Jaime Crombet Hernandez-Baquero told of the situation in Cuba and replied to questions from the people's deputies. The Cuban ambassador to Ukraine, Lopes Briel [as received], who attended the meeting, said that following the exacerbation of Cuban-American relations the Cuban Embassy was now receiving many letters of moral support for the Cuban people in their struggle for freedom and independence.

At the meeting Petro Symonenko said he was certain that Ukrainian-Cuban cooperation would continue to develop and deepen.

Ukraine: Joint Operation of Space Center With Russia Launched

WS1203154596 Lvov INFOBANK in English 1446 GMT 12 Mar 96

[From the "News Service" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] As a correspondent of "INFOBANK" was informed by Valeriy Komarov, deputy chief manager of the National Space Agency of Ukraine, the Center for Long-Range Space Communication, a Russian-Ukrainian joint-venture, had begun to function. The Kharkov Research Institute of Radio Signal Investigation and the Moscow Lavochkin Scientific and Technical Association are founders of this joint-venture.

Ukrainian and Russian shares in financing of the Center for Long- Range Space Communication will be agreed in bilateral intergovernmental treaties on collaboration in the sphere of peaceful use of space and establishing of the Distant Space International Center. It is anticipated that these treaties will be signed during Russian President Yeltsin's visit to Ukraine or during a session of Russian and Ukrainian Commission on Economic Collaboration headed by Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

Right now the Yevpatoria Space Flight Center is subordinated to the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine; but it should be resubordinated to the National Space Agency of Ukraine before 1997. However, as it was said by Valeriy Komarov, by this time, Russian satellite flights were already controlled by the Center in the framework of the "Interball" project. These satellites ("Mars" and "Granat" types) are used for distant space exploration.

Ukraine: Russia, West Seen Conspiring Against Country

AU1103190596 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 5 Mar 96 pp 7, 8

[Article by Volodymyr Shevchenko, Ukrainian people's deputy and member of the Commission for Issues of Defense and State Security: "The Army Adapts to the Needs of Defense and Does Not 'Play the Game' of Endless Restructuring" — first two paragraphs published in a box]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] As is known, among the conditions for Ukraine's admission to the Council of

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Europe was also the criterion that is generally accepted in European countries — a civilian defense minister. It is also known that our country is not the only one among former republics of the Soviet Union where the need to appoint a civilian person as defense minister has been heeded. Hopefully, all republics of the former USSR will opt for such a course. Let me point out that in Russia, too, the possibility is considered of appointing a civilian defense minister.

In accordance with our laws "On Ukraine's Defense" and "On Ukraine's Armed Forces," our president, as supreme commander of the Armed Forces and chairman of Ukraine's Defense Council, is in charge of the general leadership of the Armed Forces. The president carries out leadership of the Armed Forces through the Ministry of Defense. [passage omitted]

Let us return to Ukrainian problems. Prior to creating the structure of the General Staff and the Defense Ministry Apparatus, it was necessary to start with specifying their functions in Ukrainian laws, in other words, to create a legislative foundation and then create a corresponding structure for implementing actual functions of these state structures. Of prime significance are the goals and tasks that the Defense Ministry will resolve and then — structural formations. Of course, of special importance in the conditions of building the Armed Forces is the problem of dividing the administrative and direct control of the Armed Forces. However, a corresponding structure is necessary for resolving the question of functioning of each of them, and a problem arises of how to avoid duplication of both their functions and structures.

Consequently, the minister's duty is to draft and implement long-term and current plans for using the budget. Yet another function of this state body is civilian control over the sphere of national defense: For this purpose, the minister of defense may keep public opinion informed about the situation in the Armed Forces. To be aware of and influence the state of affairs in the Armed Forces, their combat and mobilization readiness, the level of fighting efficiency, and provision with everything the army needs, the defense minister must control the activity of administrative bodies at all levels through inspections conducted in the Armed Forces. Working periodically within administrative bodies of the troops, inspectors must examine their activity comprehensively, report to the defense minister about the state of affairs, and also draft the necessary proposals. As pointed out above, the minister is a political figure, invested with control functions in issues of defense. He is in touch with Ukraine's supreme commander and is responsible for the military budget and provision of the military structure. That is why the functions of the defense minister must be divided into those of administrative manager and chief of the General Staff as direct commander of the troops. It must be taken into account that the Defense Ministry is a complex structure, which has its own plants, organizations, and so on. It is, therefore, necessary to draw a distinct boundary between military structures and those structures that provide for them.

The division of powers within troops should not violate the main principle of combined command. Many people may, for example, assume that, in the case of dividing powers, military units, formations, and districts will fall under direct subordination of the chief of General Staff, whereas rear services, more specifically, rear services units, will be subordinated to the Defense Ministry apparatus. This will, certainly, violate the principle of control over troops. Such an outcome should not be allowed to happen. The senior military chief, or the main person wearing shoulder boards, must be in charge of all those military organizations whose personnel is, by more than 70 percent, in active service. These are, for example, educational establishments, building troops, the rear services system, and various courses for retraining the personnel. More specifically, those forces and structures that service the Armed Forces. What I mean is that the minister, as a political figure, must supervise troops through the state's senior military figure, without, however, violating the principle of combined command and ruling out political influence on the troops. This does not, however, mean that the minister is not the chief leader of the Armed Forces, because he is in charge of the state defense as a whole.

Presently, after Ukraine has joined the Council of Europe, we are faced with the task of full integration within the European community, and this is necessary for stabilizing policy in the center of the European continent. Of course, results of political stabilization will not be immediate. There are many countries in Europe that, like our eastern neighbor [Russia], do not want to see our state strong and economically advanced. Those countries have dissimilar interests, but their goals coincide. Both Russia and the United States want to disarm Ukraine as fast as possible and weaken it in both military and economic aspects. Russia wants to achieve this goal to be able to "reintegrate" the disarmed and weakened Ukraine, like, for example, Belarus. The West strives, by joint efforts, to fleece Ukraine and reduce its military potential, lest, God forbid, Ukraine should again become a constituent part of Russia. The West's economic interests can be seen with the naked eye: It rather wants to see Ukraine as a raw-materials appendage to its economic interests.

However, both Russia and the West do not realize that there also exist interests of the East! The events

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in Yugoslavia and Chechnya have shown graphically that the national interests of both European countries and the United States will be affected if a weakened Ukraine becomes easy game for its neighbors. As is known, weakness always provokes force, which seeks to influence interrelations among both people and states.

However, Ukraine is neither Yugoslavia nor Chechnya. A conflict in the center of Europe, more specifically, in Ukraine, may be fatal for the entire European community. In all likelihood, it will realize that a stable Ukraine is also a sphere of the national interests of Western countries. It is in the center of Europe, and perhaps, they will decide to stop cutting that ill-fated tree on which both Russia and European countries sit and upon which Americans, incidentally, also lean. Meanwhile, the cutting operations resound in the form of blowing up missile launch silos in Pervomaysk of Nikolayev Oblast, where, like vultures upon the body of a half-dead lion, the defense ministers of Russia and the United States flew together to watch the death throws of the most reliable guarantor of Ukraine's security — its strategic rocket troops. If one takes into account the previous statements by such prominent contemporary politicians as Margaret Thatcher, Helmut Kohl and Francois Mitterand to the effect that nuclear weapons are a guarantor of peace in Europe, since the times of the thoughtless transfer of the Ukrainian nuclear weapons to Russia, the Ukrainian politicians look like mere woodpeckers by comparison with the U.S. and Russian hawks. While there is still no awareness of this, our neighbors only speak nicely about a European home, but we ourselves must take care of this and make every effort, both military and political, to ensure our security, so that Ukraine would be able to play its role in the system of European security.

The problems of defense are global in character and are not exclusively military, even though this aspect is the most important one. Civil defense and economic security must remain matters for maximum attention on the part of the reformed Ministry of Defense, in which a civilian person is in charge of the state's defense issues.

In this complex transitional period, we are faced with a difficult, but vitally important task — to determine top priorities in Ukraine's defense and identify its main goals and ways of achieving them. Then, it will be necessary to formulate a long-term policy in the sphere of defense, because here it is not just necessary to have a clear understanding of the goals, but also time for their implementation. This applies both to the personnel, whose training and professional activity have been carried out over decades, and weapons, whose production cycle and service life have been extended over a long period of time. The types of weapons that the troops will get at the beginning of the third millennium or, perhaps, even later, must be worked on now, taking into account operational needs and technological and industrial possibilities, as well as availability of financial resources. This also applies to the structure of the Defense Ministry and the General Staff of Ukraine's Armed Forces, in particular, organization of the Armed Forces. Both the structure and organization must be adapted to changes in the character of external threat and the needs of defense, but the army cannot be an arena of endless restructuring, as is presently the case of our Armed Forces.

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Belarus

Belarus: Lukashenka Sets Up Commission To Work on Treaty With Russia

WS1303091696 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0400 GMT 13 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] According to information from the Presidential Press Service, following his directive, Alyaksandr Lukashenka has set up a commission for holding negotiations connected with the preparation of a draft agreement determining the principles and main directions of a further comprehensive rapprochement of Belarus with Russia. The commission includes high-level officials from the Presidential Administration, the government, and a number of ministries and departments of the Republic of Belarus.

Belarus: Czech Delegation's Visit to Minsk Reported

WS1303091496 Minsk BELAPAN in English 0824 GMT 13 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] During the current visit of the Czech deputy foreign minister, Mrs Helena Bambasova, to Belarus, an agreement on visa free trips by citizens of Belarus and the Czech Republic to these countries was signed. As a BELAPAN correspondent was informed at the Press and Information Department of the Belarusian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Khvastow signed this agreement on behalf of Belarus. On March 12 Mrs Bambasova also had a meeting with the chief of the Belarusian foreign office, Uladzimir Syanko. The state of Belarusian-Czech relations and their prospects for the future were discussed during the meeting.

On March 12 Belarusian Minister for Foreign Economic Relations Mikhail Marynich received the deputy foreign minister of the Czech Republic, Mrs Helena Bambasova. As a BELAPAN correspondent was informed at the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, during the negotiations the parties spoke in favour of signing interstate agreements on the avoidance of double taxation and on the mutual protection of investments as soon as possible. The Belarusian minister suggested that a joint permanent commission should be formed to deal with questions concerning bilateral economic relations. The Czech party proposed somewhat different form of contacts — regular consultations between the Czech Ministry of Industry and Commerce and the Belarusian Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations. During the negotiations the parties also considered the possibility of the organisation of an exhibition of Czech products in Minsk and consultations in the field of privatisation and statistics, and other matters.

Incidentally, trade between the two countries was on an expanding trend during the last three years. Trade turnover in 1995 increased by 420 percent compared to the previous year. Belarusain export increased by 270 percent, import by 520 percent. The Belarusian export of chemical products, machines, equipment and transport vehicles and textiles increased multifold last year. In 1995 Belarus mainly imported chemical products, machines, transport vehicles, industrial raw materials and a number of socially important goods. The Czech Republic imported trucks, potash fertilizer, flax and flax fibre, synthetic fibre, metal cord and clothes.

There are 29 joint-Belarusian-Czech ventures registered in Belarus. Their aggregate authorised fund totals around $3.5 million, the Czech share being over $1.8 million. In Belarus there are also 10 enterprises with one-hundred-percent Czech capital (their aggregate authorised fund totals about $250,000), and 13 offices of Czech companies. On the territory of the Czech Republic there are two Belarusian-Czech enterprises registered. Their authorised funds total 6 mln Czech kronas. The Czech share in them makes up 25 percent.

Belarus: Polish Opposition to Kaliningrad Highway Regretted

LD1303093796 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0813 GMT 13 Mar 96

[By Igor Ruban]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MINSK March 13 (Itar-Tass) - Belarusian deputy Foreign minister Mikhail Khvostov regretted the Polish negative reaction to plans of building a highway to the Russian Baltic enclave of Kaliningrad via Poland.

He told Tass on Wednesday that cooperation between Belarus and the enclave "could have developed more fruitfully had it not been for the negative reaction of Polish authorities to the intention of Belarus and Russia to build an exterritorial corridor from Kaliningrad to Grodno".

This perspective project cannot be implemented without consultations with the Polish side, he added.

Khvostov was speaking in connection with a two-day Belarusian visit of Kaliningrad governor Yuriy Matochkin which begins today. Cooperation issues to be discussed during the visit include swapping of Kaliningrad fish for Byelorussian bricks. Minsk is also ready to build an electricity transmitting line to Kaliningrad and supply its agricultural products to the enclave.

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Moldova

Moldova: Snegur, Smirnov Discuss Dniester's Future

AU1303115296 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1930 GMT 11 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau, Tiraspol 11/03/1996 — (BASS-press) — A new round of talks was held in Tiraspol today between the Moldovan officials headed by President Mircea Snegur and Tiraspol officials headed by Dniester leader Igor Smirnov.

Moldovan delegation comprised Speaker Petru Lucinschi, Premier Andrei Sangheli and other Moldovan officials.

Michael Wygant, OSCE [Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe] Mission to Moldova head; Aleksandr Papkin, Russian Ambassador to Moldova; Yuriy Karlov, Russian plenipotentiary representative to the negotiations; and Yevhen Levytskyy, Ukrainian charge d'affaires and temporary Ukrainian presidential envoy to the talks, attended the meeting.

The meeting agenda included subjects concerning the special status for Dniester, customs, finance and banking, and performance of the commerce chambers.

Heads of the Moldovan and Dniester expert groups, Mihai Busuleac and Valeriy Litskay, respectively, told reporters upon conclusion of the round that the parties signed a series of documents concerning provisions on the Dniester special status on which the parties are in agreement. In particular, the parties agreed upon the official languages, insignia and media in Transnistria.

"The Dniester region will have its own constitution and will pass laws in compliance with the powers it will be granted, but Moldova will be the sole subject in international relations," said Mihai Busuleac.

"Transnistria will at the same time have the right to carry its own foreign economic activity," said Valeriy Litskay.

The heads of expert groups said the main divergence still persistent in the talks concerns the formulation of the special juridical status for Transnistria.

The parties concluded agreements on customs, industry and commerce chambers, and standardization. They also adopted a new tactics of conducting talks whereby those provisions are adopted about which there is agreement.

Negotiators did not yet agree upon financial-banking activity which will be discussed later.

The parties drafted a petition to the Ukrainian president to grant transit facilities for Moldovan and Transnistrian businesses.

Moldova: Protocol With Romania on Avoiding Double Taxation Ratified

AU1303115796 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1930 GMT 11 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau 11/03/1996 (BASA-press) — Moldovan and Romanian representatives exchanged ratification instruments for the intergovernmental convention on avoidance of double taxation and prevention of tax evasion in Bucharest today.

According to a foreign minister press release, the respective intergovernmental protocol was signed by Grigore Eremei, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary in Bucharest, and Ioan Maxim, ambassador and general director at the Romanian foreign minister.

Eremei stated the Convention will come into force on April 10 and will open opportunities to attract foreign investments in Moldova and will improve the conditions of operation of businesses, in particular, as far as taxation of dividends is concerned.

Moldova and Romania have concluded 27 agreements, protocols, conventions and understandings, including a free trade agreement.

In Moldova, there are 58 joint ventures with Romanian capital.

According to statistics, Moldova's foreign trade turnover with Romania totaled $161.7 million in 1995, up 28.4 percent as compared with 1994.

Romania accounts for 17 percent of Moldovan exports and ranks second, after Russia, among Moldova's trade partners.

Romanian imports to Moldova were worth $56.3 million and hold the 4th place.

Several days earlier, the Romanian media relayed that Moldova violates the bilateral agreement on custom duties exemption for goods of Moldovan origin. Moldovan firms introduce in Romania "large quantities" of foreign goods which are taxed on Moldovan border and re-sent across the Romanian border with false certificates of origin.

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Tajikistan

Tajikistan: President, Prime Minister Meet U.S. Envoy Collins

LD1203162696 Dushanbe KHOVAR in Russian 0936 GMT 11 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] President Imomali Rahmanov and Prime Minister Yahyo Azimov discussed bilateral cooperation and Tajik economic development with James Collins, the ambassador-at-large for the Newly Independent States.

The main aim of Collin's visit was a peaceful settlement to the Tajik conflict. The American diplomat singled out this theme as the priority for the talks in his announcement to the press, made immediately on his arrival in Dushanbe at midday on 10 March.

"We call on both sides to agree to an extension of the cease-fire accord as soon as possible. This is important, as the involvement of the United Nations in the talks might otherwise be annulled," the ambassador said unambiguously.

He said that the United States is closely observing the talks which, as they very much hope in America, will lead to a settlement of the conflict. Official Washington noted with satisfaction the peaceful outcome to the confrontation between armed groups and the government. Nonetheless, the United States is very concerned about the fate of Muzaffar Rahmanov, and calls on the government to make every effort to find out what has happened to him.

The ambassador once again repeated that the leadership of his country and the people of the United States are watching events in Tajikistan. "As you know," the guest recalled, "in recent years we have given the republic humanitarian and other forms of assistance worth a total of more than $100 million, and we shall continue to do everything we can, in the hope of finding a swift answer to the political and other questions that are currently tearing society apart."

According to Zafar Saidov, the president's press-secretary, James Collins's conversation with Imomali Rahmanov was in the same vein. The president told the guest about the situation in Tajikistan; about the events its leadership is undertaking to achieve consolidation and national accord; and about efforts to advance economic reforms in order to escape from the crisis.

In this context, the head of state said Tajikistan was ready to extend the cease-fire for the entire process of the talks, up to the signing of a general agreement on national accord, without any prior conditions. He once again confirmed his readiness to meet the leader of the Islamic opposition, Sayed Abdullo Nuri, at any time, to sign a full and permanent cease-fire agreement between the sides.

James Collins praised the constructive position of the government delegation at the Ashkhabad talks. He said that the American side had even urged the opposition to use the opportunities that have emerged to settle the Tajik conflict. As for aid to Tajikistan, the ambassador said it would have not only a humanitarian character, but would take the form of economic cooperation on both a bilateral level and within the framework of international banking and financial organizations.

The sides discussed terrorism in all its forms. The president of Tajikistan once again expressed his readiness to cooperate with international organizations in creating and improving democratic institutions in the country.

Imomali Rahmanov expressed his concern about the confrontations in Afghanistan, and noted that the presidents of Russia and the United States could have a great impact in helping to achieve accord and stability in the Islamic State of Afghanistan, on which the situation in Tajikistan also depends. In his opinion, it would be possible to organize a meeting of senior representative leaders of these countries to achieve a peaceful settlement of the situation in Afghanistan, which would have a positive impact on the general atmosphere of inter-Tajik relations. This is one of the new initiatives of the president of Tajikistan, Zafar Saidov said.

At the end of the meeting, a member of the American delegation, Coit Blacker, the Special Assistant to the President of the United States, gave Imomali Rahmonov a personal message from Bill Clinton.

It spoke of the readiness of the United States to arrange mutually beneficial bilateral cooperation, and expressed hope for broadening cooperation between Tajikistan and the IMF and other international banking organizations in implementing economic reforms. In the opinion of the President of the United States, this ought to help attract foreign investment to Tajikistan and, eventually, accelerate its integration into the world economy. The message conveyed the readiness of the United States to support the efforts of the United Nations, the OSCE and the observer-countries to achieve a broad settlement of the Tajik conflict.

The economic development of Tajikistan was discussed in greater detail at the meeting between James Collins and Prime Minister Yahyo Azimov. Saying that Azimov's bold steps to create market relations are perceived with approval both in the United States and in the world community, the ambassador emphasized the

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historically unprecedented nature of the intensive move towards economic transformation seen in Tajikistan.

The sides discussed in detail new directions in cooperation between the two countries, the transition from United States humanitarian assistance to cooperation with the IMF and other international financial organizations.

Yahyo Azimov's meeting with the American diplomat basically concerned obtaining a credit for Tajikistan from international banks and training Tajik nationals in the specialities needed by the republic under the new market conditions. The prime minister said he told the guest about new programs in this direction, and that they were perceived by the American side with understanding and a promise of help; both in training specialists and in obtaining credits. James Collins said that he was personally convinced of the positive progress observed in the economic development of Tajikistan.

Tajikistan: Text of Tajik Reconciliation Accord

LD1203194996 Dushanbe KHOVAR in Russian 0936 GMT 11 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text]

Treaty on Public Accord in Tajikistan

We, the participants in this treaty — linked by a common destiny in Tajikistan, taking into account the historical necessity to ensure the unity of the Tajik people, recognizing the priority of the individual's rights and freedoms and of the universal standards of international law, declaring our own adherence to the principles of state sovereignty, of the development of democracy and a state system, acknowledging our own responsibility before the present and future generations, setting ourselves the task of ensuring civil peace, national unity and public accord in the republic, acknowledging our diverse public strength and spiritual wealth — consider that Tajikistan has an alternative to confrontation and that we are obliged to pursue this alternative in order to leave to our successors a peaceful and united Tajikistan, where the principle that everyone is born free and equal in dignity and rights is implemented properly. We declare our common stand on the main issues embodied in this treaty.

1. The purpose of the treaty

1) To create the foundations for public, political, and national consolidation of Tajiks and other ethnic groups in building an open, independent pluralistic society in Tajikistan.

2. The tasks of the treaty

(1) To achieve civil peace, national and public accord in society.

(2) To ensure the priority of the rights and freedoms of man above all other values.

(3) To ensure the rule of the constitution and the universal principles of international law.

3. The principles forming the basis of this treaty

(1) Recognition and observance of the Constitution of the Republic of Tajikistan.

(2) The constitutionality of peaceful methods of achieving political goals; the inadmissibility of solving society's problems through force of any kind; only the state may have armed forces and military units.

(3) Diversity of opinions and ideology; a multiparty system.

(4) Equality of the participants in implementing the agreement

4. The obligations of the parties to the treaty

A. General obligations

(1) To put the interests of society above departmental, group, party, and regional interests.

(2) To rule out sex discrimination and discrimination on the grounds of language, nationality, religion and other differences.

(3) To aim for peace and friendship with the countries of Central Asia and the CIS, first and foremost with the Russian Federation, with the aim of providing international support of actions aimed at achieving national and civil accord and a peaceful settlement of the inter-Tajik conflict.

B. The president, the government and the Supreme Assembly are obliged to:

— produce and approve laws aimed at democratizing public life and securing the rights and freedoms of the individual;
— ensure equal access to the media for the parties to the treaty;
— carry out an active social policy aimed at stabilizing the economy and raising the standard of living;

C. Political parties and other public associations are obliged to support the government in solving economic, political, social and cultural problems as well as in supporting and strengthening state independence, national accord, rejecting any sort of extremism or the use of force.

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5. Implementation of the treaty.

A public council will be set up to regulate the activities of the signatories. The council's decisions will be adopted on the basis of consensus.

6. The signing of the treaty and the responsibilities of its participants

This treaty is concluded with the president of the Republic of Tajikistan, the chairman of the Supreme Assembly, the heads of political parties, public associations, creative unions, religious organizations, and ethnic communities. Individuals are free to join or leave the agreement.

The signatories will acknowledge that solution of all social and political problems in accordance with international law will be a success only when they support human rights and freedoms, the rights of ethnic minorities, the principles of democracy, of a law-governed state and when the president and government of the Republic of Tajikistan are acknowledged as legitimate.

7. The period the treaty is in force and the conditions for joining it

The agreement is valid for three years. The public council is authorized to extend this term. All political forces which share the principles and provisions of the agreement may join it at any time by becoming signatories.

The signatories acknowledge their responsibility before society to carry out the commitments they assume. The council will supervise implementation of all the provisions of this agreement, objectively highlighting social and political problems in the media, rejecting attempts to use them to aggravate relations between various social and political forces. The council will regularly inform the public about implementation of the treaty.

Tajikistan: Opposition Leader Comments on Abduction of Negotiator

LD1303100296 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Tajikistan in Tajik 0600 GMT 12 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Professor Sayed Abdullo Nuri considers the kidnapping of Muzaffar Rakhmanov, co-chairman of the joint cease-fire observing commission as the reason for the opposition's not participating in the session of the parliament of Tajikistan. Prof. Nuri, in a message sent to the UN secretary-general, Butrus Butrus Ghali yesterday, wrote that security bodies of Tajikistan made an attempt to kidnap another opposition representative of the aforementioned commission, Jaloliddin Mahmudov. When the latter, with the assistance of UN mission employees, boarded an aircraft to fly to Tehran, armed people took him from the aircraft and questioned him.

Prof. Sayed Abdullo Nuri wrote that this event caused the opposition to make their final decision. One cannot believe that unidentified groups can be present at the airport of the capital, where the airborne forces are stationed.

Prof. Nuri wrote that he has received precise reports from people close to the president, that the kidnapping of Zafar Rakhmanov was done with the aim of preventing participation by the opposition's representative in the new session of parliament.

Prof. Nuri said that if Rakhmanov has the intention of meeting, the opposition is ready to anywhere and at any time to meet a government delegation and solve the problems.

Tajikistan: Badakhshan Group Opts To Join United Opposition Forces

LD1303131896 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Tajikistan in Tajik 0600 GMT 13 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A message has been received from Khorog saying that the Lale Badakhshan organization [set up in 1991 with the aim of achieving greater autonomy for Badakhshan] wants to join the United Opposition Forces of Tajikistan. [passage omitted]

The letter from the chairman of this organization to the leader of the United Opposition Forces of Tajikistan bears witness to the fact that Lale Badakhshan has ceased its underground activities and now intends to join the peace talks as a political force. [Tajik opposition leader] Prof Nuri has not yet answered this letter, but it is likely his reply will be positive.

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Armenia

Armenia: Russia's Pastukhov, Kazimirov Visit; Leave for Karabakh

NC1203205896 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1900 GMT 12 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A delegation headed by Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Pastukhov arrived in Yerevan today. Vladimir Kazimirov, the Russian president's ambassador for special missions, is also included in the delegation.

Armenian Foreign Minister Vahan Papazyan received the delegation. It was noted at the meeting that this visit is part of Russia's shuttle diplomacy. The meeting is intended to speed up the process of reconciling the two sides' views on the political resolution of the Karabakh issue and to formulate new approaches.

Immediately after the meeting, the delegation left for Stepanakert for talks with the Karabakh leadership.

Russian Ambassador to Armenia Andrey Urnov attended the meeting.

Armenia: Full Membership in European Council Sought

NC1303120096 Yerevan SNARK in English 1614 GMT 11 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan, March 11 (SNARK)—The Press Office of the Armenian Foreign Ministry issued a statement saying that on March 8, Armenian Foreign Minister Vahan Papazyan handed over an official application to EC Secretary General Daniel Tarshis for Armenia's full membership to the European Council.

Later in the day, delivering a speech at the EC Ministers' Committee, Vahan Papazyan stated that Armenia intends to launch wide-range cooperation with the European Council. He expressed hope the EC would assist Armenia in its subsequent development of democracy and legal system.

Papazyan conferred with the chairmen of EC different departments about programs for providing Armenia with judicial assistance to organize a legal system there. Laws drafted by the Armenian Government will be examined, and a seminar is to be conducted in Armenia in 1996 to this effect.

Armenia and the European Council will also cooperate in the social and human rights areas, as well as in the fields of culture, sport and education as soon as Armenia joins the European Culture Convention.

Representatives from Armenia have been given access to intergovernmental committees until the republic is recognized as a full member of the EC.

Armenia: U.S. Seeking To Exploit Armenian Sci-Tech Potential

MM1303094396 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 Mar 96 p 2

[Report by Boris Mkrtchyan: "Creeping Up On Armenian Military-Industrial Complex"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yerevan — Armenian Foreign Minister V. Papazyan and Peter Thomson, U.S. ambassador to Armenia, have exchanged ratification documents under the previously signed agreement "On the Joint Encouragement and Protection of Investment."

At a news conference on this subject P. Thomson noted that the Americans are very interested in Armenia's scientific and technical potential and, in particular, its precision technologies as well as its...cheap labor.

And, indeed, a very low value is placed on labor (including scientific and technical staff) in Armenia, which is currently experiencing a most severe economic crisis. Thus, for instance, unit labor costs in Japan are $1,000, but are only $100 in Armenia.

The international executive services mission and the U.S. Embassy illustrated what Armenian technologies U.S. circles are particularly interested in. They are carrying out an economic analysis program into the republic's enterprises. Of particular interest to the mission are military-industrial complex enterprises, of which there are plenty in Armenia. They are currently surveying the "Sirius" Plant — one of the biggest military-industrial complex electronic enterprises in the former Union.

Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan: Aliyev Receives IMF Official

NC1303092796 Baku TURAN in English 1758 GMT 12 Mar 96

(FBIS Transcribed Text) Baku/12.03.96/TURAN: Today president Geydar Aliyev received Chairman of the Executive Board of the IMF Michel Camdessus.

"Your arrival will create conditions for acceleration of reforms in Azerbaijan," Geydar Aliyev said greeting the guest. He noted that Azerbaijan was a young state which is changing its economy and faces some difficulties. "Azerbaijan needs the help of the IMF to overcome these difficulties. The help you provided us has already played its role ," he said.

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Michel Camdessus said, in turn, that Azerbaijan has gained independence recently. "However, you managed to obtain economic progress in the most unfavourable conditions. One of the main aims of my visit to Baku is to express admiration with the success you achieved in the economy, its changing lately," Camdessus said.

The most impressing success is decrease of inflation from 50 to two per cent a month, Head of the IMF said and expressed a hope that these processes will be continued and will be spread on other spheres of economics. "It requires time that the positive results were felt by ordinary man and we are ready to help you," Camdessus said.

• In 1995 IMF allocated to Azerbaijan credits in two trends: STF [as received] - for stabilisation of macroeconomy and support of the course of national currency of manat. Azerbaijan received 90 million dollars in this trend (44 million manats early in the year and 46 million late in the year.)

Decision on allocation of Stand-by credit was adopted late in 1995.

Here the amount of credit totals 85 million dollars , 14 million of which Azerbaijan has received already. A second portion of the credit will be received in March 1996 and then each quarter.

Thus, total amount of credits allocated by the IMF to Azerbaijan is 175 million dollars, 104 million of them have been received.

According to informed sources, during the present visit of Camdessus a question on allocation to Azerbaijan of second part of Stand-by credit will be resolved.

Experts consider that IMF will bring up before the leadership of Azerbaijan a question on necessity of reduction of expenses and on increasing prices for bread and energy sources up to the world level.

Azerbaijan: Karabakh Parliament Speaker, Deputy Replaced

LD1303092396 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0841 GMT 13 Mar 96

[By Tigran Liloyan]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] YEREVAN, March 13 (Itar-Tass) - According to an official report received here today, Artur Tovmasyan has been elected Speaker of the Parliament of the self-styled Nagorno-Karabakh Republic. He replaced Karen Baburyan, who handed in his resignation due to "poor health". His application to be relieved of his duties before the expiration of his term was satisfied by secret ballot. Tovmasyan got the biggest number of votes during the election of the new speaker which was contested by three candidates. Two other MPs refused to accept their nomination.

The report from Stepanakert also says that the newly elected Speaker expressed mistrust in his 44-year-old Deputy Lavrent Gabrielyan and moved to dismiss him. A corresponding decision was adopted by a majority vote.

The reasons of the sudden replacement of two parliament leaders of the unrecognised Nagorno-Karabakh Republic are yet unknown in Yerevan. Baburyan visited Yerevan at the head of a Nagorno-Karabakh parliamentary delegation at the beginning of March and signed there an agreement on inter-parliamentary cooperation with the Armenian National Assembly. This document was received with great dissatisfaction in Baku. A statement issued by the Azerbaijan Foreign Ministry assessed the agreement as interference in the domestic affairs of that republic.

The session of the Nagorno-Karabakh Parliament will continue its work on Thursday.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Pastukhov arrived in Stepanakert on Tuesday evening to meet Karabakh leaders.

Azerbaijan: Guliyev Claims 'New Coup Attempt Being Prepared'

NC0703140496 Baku TURAN in English 0433 GMT 7 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku/06.03.96/TURAN—"We have information that new attempt of state coup is being prepared," Rasul Guliyev, a speaker, told today in the parliament. He did not specify who was preparing a coup and said nothing about details. According to him, previous attempts of state coups greatly affected hard economic situation in Azerbaijan and fulfillment of budget for 1995.

Address of Rasul Guliyev was devoted to fulfillment of budget for 1995. It is known that state budget of Azerbaijan for 1995 was fulfilled by 60 percent.

Georgia

Georgia: Foreign Minister Discusses Role of Russian Peacekeepers

LD1303093696 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0910 GMT 13 Mar 96

[By Tengiz Pachkoriya]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TBILISI March 13 (Itar-Tass) — The Georgian Foreign Minister believes Russian peacekeeping troops should leave Abkhazia if they fail

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to ensure a safe return of Georgian refugees to the separatist region.

Irakli Menagharishvili told reporters on Wednesday that the Russian forces, deployed on the Abkhazian-Georgian border along the Inguri river, "should get such a mandate which would guarantee a safe return of refugees to all regions of Abkhazia and their peaceful life in home places".

But Menagharishvili made it understood that such mandate is hardly implementable.

"If such a mandate is impossible to design, then the presence of Russian peacekeeping forces in the zone of the conflict loses any sense", he said.

With the current mandate the Russian forces "can do nothing positive. On the contrary they can promote the preservation of the conflict", according to the minister.

The main task of the Russian troops in the region is to divide Georgian and Abkhazian forces.

Georgia estimates there are 300,000 refugees who are not allowed back to Abkhazia by local authorities.

Georgia: Georgian, North Ossetian Presidents Hold Talks

LD1203152396 Tbilisi IPRINDA in Russian 1220 GMT 12 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi, 12th March—An IPRINDA correspondent reported that the president of North Ossetia, Akhsarbek Galazov, arrived in Tbilisi on 12 March for a brief unofficial visit. Galazov met with President Eduard Shevardnadze and Russian Ambassador to Georgia Vladimir Zemskiy behind closed doors. After the meeting, the two presidents held a briefing.

Galazov said: "My initiative 'Caucasian Home' is in tune with Eduard Shevardnadze's 'Peaceful Caucasus' initiative. I have proposed to the Georgian president to hold a meeting between heads of Caucasus republics and the Russian president, with the participation of representatives of Turkey and Iran."

On the settlement of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict, Galazov said that the sides should come to the negotiating table ready for a compromise acceptable to both republics.

Shevardnadze said that a peaceful solution of problems in the Caucasus would contribute to the peaceful settlement of conflicts throughout the world.

[In a related report, Tbilisi IPRINDA in Georgian at 1000 GMT on 12 March states: "Galazov will return home later today after attending, together with Shevardnadze, a football match between the Russian champions, Spartak Vladikavkaz, and the Georgian champions, Dinamo Tbilisi."]

Georgia: Extraordinary Parliament Session To Discuss Abkhazia

LD1303111296 Tbilisi IPRINDA in Russian 0940 GMT 13 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi, 13 Mar — Committee hearings on the Abkhaz issue were held in the old parliament building on the evening of 12 March. According to Georgian Deputy Foreign Minister Giga Burduli, the Georgian delegation will not take part in a meeting of CIS foreign ministers planned for 2 April this year unless the Russian side considers Georgia's proposal to work out a new mandate for the peacekeepers in the conflict zone.

For their part, representatives of the Council of Ministers and Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia demanded the withdrawal of Russian peacekeepers from the conflict zone, saying that despite their presence, 1,200 Georgians have been killed and 500 have been kidnapped, with peacekeepers often abetting the Abkhaz separatists.

Tamaz Nadareishvili, chairman of the Supreme Council of Abkhazia, said that talks with [Abkhaz separatist leader] Ardzinba were unpromising and that the Georgian Parliament should finally admit that Abkhaz territory is occupied by Russia. The chairmen of the Supreme Council and the Council of Ministers of Abkhazia complained to the Georgian Ministry of Internal Affairs and the country's authorities that not a single document on the settlement of the conflict was agreed with them.

MPs noted that passports are being printed in Moscow with a "citizen of Abkhazia" entry in them, while Abkhaz diplomats were being trained at the diplomatic academy in Moscow to work at Abkhaz missions abroad.

The Georgian Parliament is expected to hold an extraordinary session on 14 March to discuss the Abkhaz issue.

Georgia: Source Claims Abkhazian Leader Head of Narcotics Mafia

AU1303110596 Tbilisi MSGEPSI in Georgian 6-9 Mar 96 p 4

[BGI report: "Ardzinba the Narcotics Businessman"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Narcotics are being transported out of the village of Adziubzha by means of helicopters, accompanied by the Abkhazian militia. A statement

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about this was made by the [pro-Tbilisi] Abkhazian Supreme Council press center. Givi Agrba, Abkhazian minister of internal affairs, is in charge of these operations. The narcotics mafia is putting the money acquired from the sale of the drugs into various foreign enterprises. The source maintains that V. Ardzinba [Abkhazian separatist leader] and his relative Anri Jergenia, the Abkhazian leader's personal representative in Moscow, head the narcotics mafia.

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Estonia

Estonia: Kallas: Joining NATO Would 'Guarantee Security'

LD1203130096 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1144 GMT 12 Mar 96

[By Vasiliy Golovnin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TOKYO March 12 (Itar-Tass) — Speaking at a press conference here on Tuesday, Siim Kallas, Estonian Minister of Foreign Affairs, who is currently in Japan on the first-ever official visit, stated Tallinn's intention to seek NATO membership. He said Estonia, while intending to join the North Atlantic Alliance, "seeks a way to guarantee its own security".

Estonia also strives to become a member of the European Union, Kallas emphasised, referring to this as "one of the main goals of the country's foreign and home policies".

Estonia: Finnish Defense Minister Departs After News Conference

LD1203180396 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1300 GMT 12 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Finnish Defense Minister Anneli Taina ended his visit to Estonia today. Riina Eentalu reports:

[Eentalu] The defense ministers agreed that Finland will again send active duty and reserve officers to Estonia as military advisers. Here is Minister Anneli Taina:

[Begin Taina recording, in Finnish fading to Estonian translation] Finland is not taking part in training or teaching of the Estonian Defense Forces, but this is international expert aid, Anneli Taina emphasized. [end recording]

[Eentalu] Estonian Defense Minister Andrus Oovel added that Finnish officers were expected both in the General Staff of the Defence Forces and at the level of infantry units.

[Begin Oovel recording] Finland is ready to assist the Estonian Ministry of Defense with teaching the planners of defense policy and planners of state defense. [end recording]

[Eentalu] Oovel said that it was important that this aid was coordinated by the Ministry of Defense which would decide where the help is needed most.

[Begin Oovel recording] As we have set as our aim to set up battalions of land defense on the basis of the units of the Kaitseliit [Defense League, voluntary paramilitary organization], I belive that this front of work would be in particular need of the aid. [end recording]

[Eentalu] It was recalled that Finland was continuing to train Estonian officers. When the courses currently in process will end, over 100 officers have received training in Finland. As a new subject, the follow-up training for officers in Finland was discussed. A week ago on 7 March when the commanders of the Estonian and Finnish Defense Forces met, Estonia submitted its priorities, which include implementing training systems; planning mobilisation; planning land defense; standardizing military structure; creating a basis for training, weaponry and equipment; and finally including finances and budget planning.

Today it was said that the governments of both countries were ready to accept these priorities and prepared to go ahead with cooperation for developing state defense system based on these priorities.

Finland sees no obstacles to a possible sale of weapons to Estonia, and decisions are made on the basis of laws when the issue emerges. Andrus Oovel added:

[Begin Oovel recording] Indeed, Estonia is today short of anti- tank and anti-aircraft weapons and purchasing negotiations are being held with several countries. And the Estonian state, if it wishes to equip its army with these types of weapons, has to decide in favour of allocating very considerable amount of finance. [end recording]

[Eentalu] More distant plans in a global context were also discussed concerning preparing for changes in Europe. One of the issues was enhancing bilateral cooperation in the Baltic Sea area.

[Begin Oovel recording] Maybe it is not important for state defense systems of various states to be similar. But it is definitely important that the defense systems are able to link with each other; that they were capable of working together; that organizational command, training, and logistics made cooperation possible, or, using the trendy European word, that the military units were inter-operable.

Then we could indeed, in practical life, implement for helping each other the measures that are most appropriate in a specific hotbed of crisis.

Finland's vision is that it can on its own manage the task of preventing aggression by defending itself in such an event. Estonia's position is that our national state defense gains real scale only in international cooperation and in belonging to international security organizations. [end recording]

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